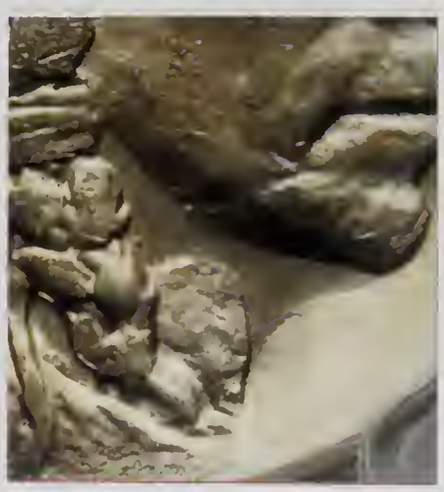
BUFFALO NICKELS

THE ABRADED DIE VARIETIES

With a special comprehensive section on the strike characteristics of the series
and an examination of all the known 1914 4 over 3 overdate dies



BY RON POPE

BUFFALO NICKELS-FIRST POINTS OF WEAR-OBVERSE

AREAS IN LIGHT GRAY ARE THE HIGHEST PARTS OF THE DESIGN AND ARE THOSE PLACES TO SHOW WEAR FIRST.

FEATHER STEM TIPS
HAIR BELOW PART
HIGH POINTS OF BRAID
RIBBON TIES
DATE

BUFFALO NICKEL PROOFS-COMPLETE SET
1913-1937 PLUS THE 2008-W GOLD $10 BULLION COIN

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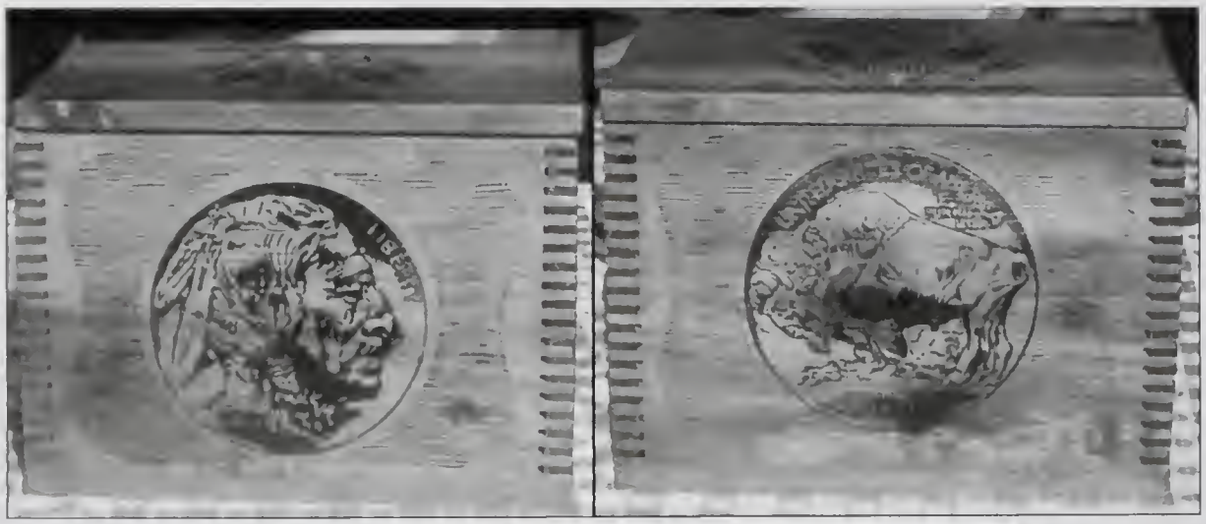

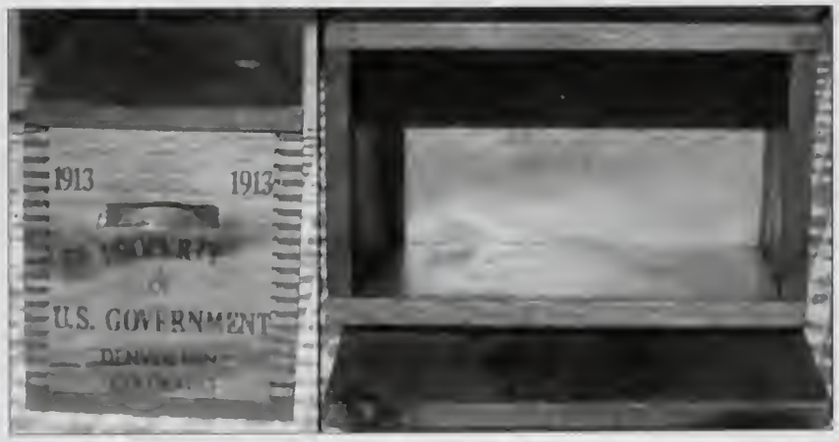

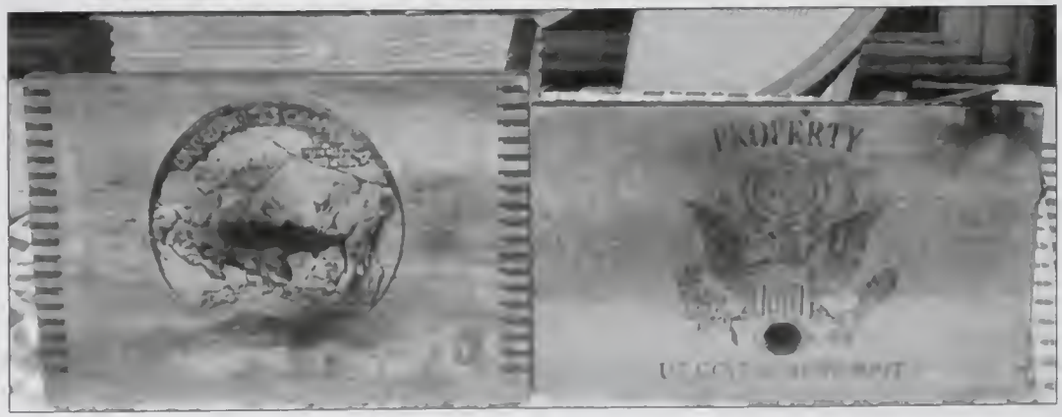

Pictured above is a wooden box owned by the author. It's unknown what this box was actually used for (it is almost certainly of recent manufacture) even though the inscriptions indicate it originated at the Denver Mint in 1913.) The images and lettering are "burned" into the box and are three dimensional. The author has seen around a half dozen of them-one sold at auction early in 2007 for $2500. Most, however, tend to bring in the $150-$300 range.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I began collecting coins at age 12 in the summer of 1961, and like most other new collectors of the time I began with the blue Whitman folder for Volume 2 of the Lincoln cent. However, I quickly changed my focus to Buffalo Nickels, Jefferson Nickels, and Mercury Dimes, with the most emphasis on the Buffalos.

After a three year hiatus due to military service from 1969 thru 1972 I resumed active collecting, still concentrating on Buffalos. This continued until 1989 when I became more heavily involved in variety coinage, particularly doubled dies, in all series but especially in the Washington quarters, Buffalos, and type coinage. I had assembled a comprehensive collection of the two feather errors known at the time during the 1970s and 1980s and later came to realize that there was very little information on this particular error. So, after I co-authored (with John Wexler and Kevin Flynn) a guide to the Buffalo nickel doubled dies titled "Treasure Hunting Buffalo Nickels" in 1999 I decided to write this current volume on abraded dies. I had taken notes on the rarity of these for many years but accurate values were much more difficult to determine, so I carefully tracked any and all sales of the 2F and 3HL varieties whenever I could (a process that continues to this day.)

I am currently retired after 33 years at the United States Postal Service and still collect but with less emphasis on the variety aspect of collecting. I have assembled date sets of Buffalos, Mercuries, and Peace Dollars with full strikes for the Buffs and rainbow toning on all coins, as well as a top condition set of Sac Dollars. I also collect the Niobium/Silver Euro commemorative issues of Austria and Luxembourg along with a type set of U.S. doubled dies and a date set of Indian Head $2.50 gold.

My wife Colleen and I were married in 1972. We have two sons, Rob and Tim.

A REVERSED IMAGE OF A TOP RARITY AND AN EXAMPLE OF A "MASKED" INDIAN

A "reversed" image of the top rarity in the series-the 1916 DDO 1-O-V. The coin pictured, tied for the finest known at MS64, sold for $250,000 at auction(Legend-Morphy)in 2013.

An image of the "Masked Indian" or "Lone Ranger" die clash variety. This clash shows the field under the bison's belly, somewhat resembling a Lone Ranger mask, in front of and below the Indian's eye. Several different dies are known for the 1913 Variety One, with the one pictured being the best die. Another die shows a double clash with two separate and distinct masks. Other dates are also known with this clash but few are as prominent as the ones found on the 1913. A different type mask, less distinct but occasionally as impressive is also known. Image courtesy of Teddy Kidwell.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks must go to Wayne Carson and Rick McKechnie for their tremendous help in providing information, new varieties, and, especially, for their excellent photos of a significant proportion of the varieties listed in this book. Thanks also must go to Heritage Galleries and Auctions of Dallas, Texas for the outstanding image of the 1926-D 3 ½ legged Buffalo, Die Stage B on page 152 and for other images used by permission. Thanks also to American Numismatic Rarities of Wolfeboro NH for the use of several of their excellent photos.

Credit must also go to the late Lloyd Hansen for his valuable help with Buffalo varieties in general. Lloyd was a true variety specialist and his passing greatly diminishes the hobby.

Rich Uhrich has provided several photos from his website of some of the rarest of the 2 feather coins. He always carries a good stock of this material, and those that may be interested may visit his website at www.richuhrichcoins.com to view and purchase many tough Buffalo Nickel abraded die varieties.

The late Norm Talbert was also an avid collector and dealer of the ADE varieties-not only was he the source of much information but also of the coins themselves. Norm was one of the most knowledgeable people around when it came to Buffalo nickels. He, too, is greatly missed-especially by those of us who consider themselves "Buffalo Buffs."

Larry Briggs and SEGS has been very progressive in slabbing and attributing many of these varieties, including several discovery coins, which are so noted on the holder.

Thanks to John Hough for providing many of the actual coins imaged herein.

I also wish to recognize Brian Ribar and Lewis Fletcher for their extensive help with the 1914/13 varieties.

And last, but certainly not least, I wish to thank my son Tim for all the help he has given me on some of the photographs. Thanks, Tim!

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of a friend I had known since I was in the second grade in 1956, Ralph Jimenez, who died in an apartment fire in Akron, Ohio on April 11, 2006. Even though he was not a variety collector or a numismatist, he was a casual collector of coins and was eager to learn about varieties. Ralph accompanied me on many of my cherry picking journeys over the years and kept me company on some of those long, tedious trips. He was a very good friend and I miss him greatly.

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* THIS DATE IS MOST LIKELY A FILLED DIE RATHER THAN AN ABRADED DIE.

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000e	FIRST POINTS OF WEAR REVERSE

THE NEW SYSTEM OF FIVAZ-STANTON (FS) NUMBERS AS DEFINED IN THE 5TH EDITION, VOL 2 OF THE "CHERRYPICKER'S GUIDE" IS USED FOR ALL VARIETIES LISTED IN THAT REFERENCE.

The next page (A-10) explains how the different ADE varieties are listed and arranged in this book.

85 TOTAL ADE VARIETIES
10 TOTAL OVERDATE VARIETIES
250 TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING SIX COLOR PLATES

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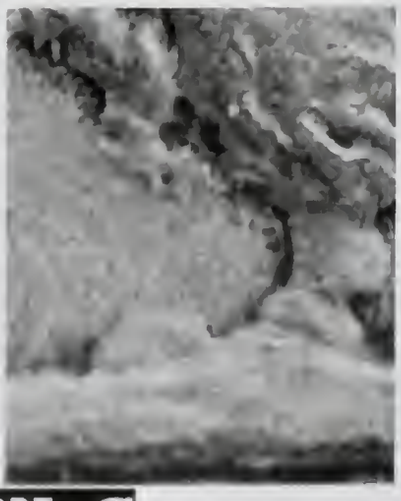
ABRADED DIE REVERSE (ADR) VARIETIES



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THE ABRADED DIE VARIETIES

CAUSE AND EFFECT >>

As the classification of these varieties suggests, these are produced by abrading or polishing of the die(s), resulting in the weakening or elimination of parts of the design, usually, but not always involving the shallowest parts of the design. On the obverse this is mostly restricted to the small, partial feather closest to the neck or the designer's initial (though the latter is in relief on the die rather than incused as are the remaining parts of the design and it's absence may have been caused by the clash itself.) The bridge of the nose, front of the neck, and the area below the chin and jaw are sometimes affected as well-these last two due to an overly vigorous attempt to remove the EPU or E Pluribus Unum clash so often seen on these coins. These "non traditional" ADE varieties can be found pictured on page A-13 and listed by currently known date and Mint on page D-04.

The elimination of clash marks is the commonly accepted reason for the abrading of the dies, but otherwise good dies that have suffered from rust certainly can't be ruled out, even though this explanation is unlikely. This is the possible explanation for the 1937-D 3 legged variety (this was first theorized nearly forty years ago in one volume of "The Whitman Numismatic Journal") and is also a distinct possibility for any others that show severe erosion as well as missing design elements.

COLLECTOR INTEREST >>

The traditional ADE varieties have a fairly strong collector following-this is especially true of the 3L and 3HL varieties. These are the ones that can be found listed in many of the regular and specialized publications concerning this series.

The 1937-D 3 legged coin has been known virtually since it was minted and exists in very sizeable numbers as many were saved from the beginning. It's rarity is nearly always vastly overstated, but demand is very high, so it sells at very high levels. It remains arguably the most popular and well known US coin die variety. The 1936-D 3 ½ leg is also a popular variety due to it's listing in the "Red Book" and several other pricing guides, though it comes nowhere close to the 1937-D. It, too has been a recognized variety for many years-at least since the late 1970's. The rest of the 3 ½ legged varieties are little known other than to specialists of the series, but auction appearances of these have increased considerably in recent years and they are attaining more interest and popularity.

The two feather varieties have been recognized for many years as well. A few of the more common ones appeared in the Spadone book on errors as far back as the early 1960's and was reported earlier than that in other publications **(see page C-29.)** The same can be said of a couple of the more frequently encountered missing initial dates. These, too have increasingly appeared in various auctions during the last couple of years and both varieties are becoming a highly collectable ADE. Most have been assigned Fivaz-Stanton numbers. Some are of considerable rarity.

One non-abraded die variety may become popular as it becomes more well known-it is a clashed die known as the "Masked Indian" or "Lone Ranger" variety. These are visually impressive, quite novel and exist for a number of dates. It's certain that quite a few have yet to be reported. Significant collector demand may develop for this variety once it is publicized-if so they will be listed in a separate part of the book.

Values have been taken, wherever possible, from actual sales. These are adjusted with any recent sales where the selling price is different from those that have been previously noted. Some varieties are of sufficient rarity or are of such recent discovery that no sales records exist. Many of the values for the traditional ADE varieties are fairly firmly established (of course, the 1937-D 3 legged is in a class by itself in this regard) but a few of the others-the 3 ½ legged coins and some of the more common 2 feather varieties in particular-are becoming much more widely known and collected and values are becoming more firmly established for these. The values for the 1936-D 3 ½ legged variety is one example where the coin has sold, at consistent prices, and at a sufficient frequency to establish a true premium for the variety.

One thing that must be remembered concerning the 3HL varieties is that all of them except the 1913 Var 1 and the 1936-D show a wide variance in the weakness of the attenuated leg. Only those that are dramatically weaker should be considered when attribution and/or purchases are made.

The former section "H" listing the 3 ½ legged rear leg varieties has been deleted until such time that they become more widely accepted.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF ADE IN OTHER SERIES

"Jeffalo" Nickel-"detached leg"

"Incomplete Shield"
Standing Liberty 25c

Missing designer's initial-1954-S
Roosevelt Dime (Image courtesy of "Errorscope")

Missing designer's initial-
Walking Liberty 50c

An example of a 2006 North Dakota statehood quarter showing very severe abraded die damage. This is a "broken neck" variety.

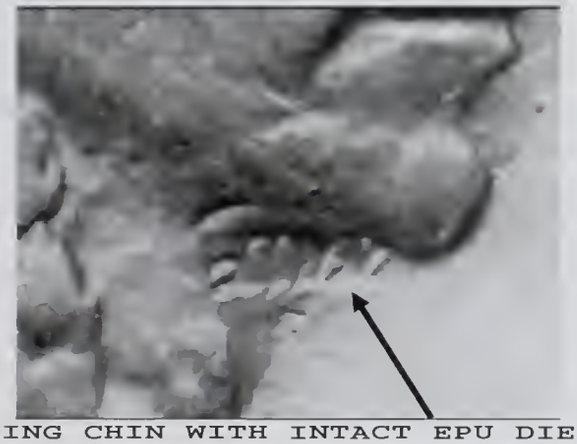
TYPES OF NON TRADITIONAL ADE (7)

Several other types of abraded die errors can be found in the Buffalo nickel series. These are illustrated below and are classified as the "Non Traditional" ADE types. They are much less well known than the traditional varieties that this book covers and but be of interest to some collectors. The premium on most of these other ADE varieties pictured will be minimal-perhaps 10%-20% over the value of a normal coin. The multiple ADE/clashed die coins exist for only a few dates-these should be worth an additional premium over the same date showing just a single anomaly. See page D 04 for a list of all the currently known dates of all the non-traditional varieties. One of these non-traditional varieties-the missing neck-is listed in this book due to the extent of the missing detail, perhaps the greatest of all the ADE varieties.

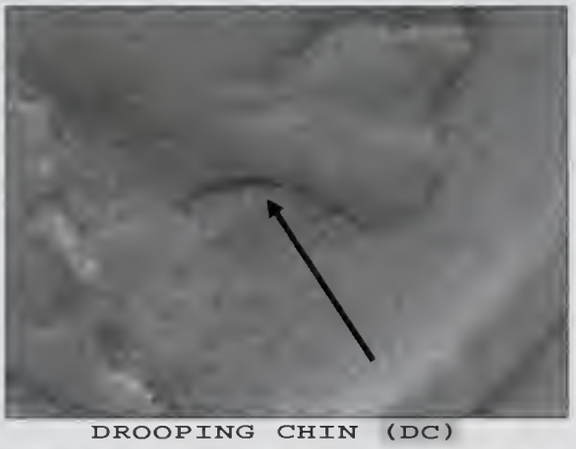
BROKEN NOSE (BNS)

BROKEN NECK (BNK)

MISSING NECK (MNK)



DROOPING CHIN WITH INTACT EPU DIE CLASH



DROOPING CHIN (DC)

BROKEN BACK (BB)

3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO-REAR LEG (3HL-R)

DIE CLASH OBVERSE-NORMAL DIE ALIGNMENT

Reverse design elements appear on the obverse die after a strong die clash and before the die is lapped, or polished, to remove them. Generally, only those parts of the design transferred to the fields (the highest parts of the die itself) will show in the clash, but, in severe cases such as is seen on the 1913 Var 1 3HL varieties they may show the shallower parts of the design, such as the Indian's neck, as well. No coin will show the extent of clashing seen on the example shown here as the deepest parts of the design are never affected. Note the "Masked" or "Lone Ranger" die clash variety can be seen in front of and below the eye. It should be realized that it is mostly the ***fields surrounding the clashed design element,*** not the design element itself that constitutes the actual clash marks as seen on the struck coin, though there are exceptions. For the sake of simplicity, the design element itself is referred to in the text when defining the source of clash marks on a coin. Die clashes can cause considerable damage to the die, greatly shortening its life. This doubtlessly partly accounts for the rarity of many of the abraded die varieties listed in this book.

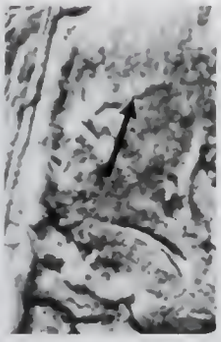
DIE CLASH OBV-ROTATED DIE ALIGNMENT

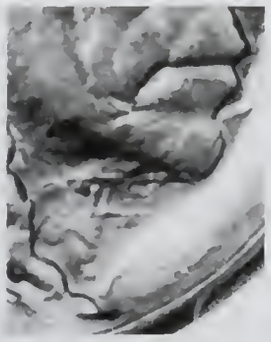
When one of the dies is *rotated* (a VERY COMMON occurrence with this series) the visual effects of the clash will change, and, depending on the degree of rotation, sometimes dramatically. For instance, as seen here, the "Lone Ranger" die clash is much more evident on the rotated die as compared to the previous photo with the dies properly aligned. It's difficult to envision how some of the moderately deep parts of the design on the die can clash, but the pattern of the clash on the Indian's neck, usually seen as a patch of roughness, perfectly matches the fur from the upper back on the Bison, so apparently it does occasionally happen. This can be seen with particular clarity on the 1913 Var 1 2HF and 3HL. Sufficient die rotation may be one way such a clash might be possible, as it would bring the shallower part of the design on the die into place for a clash that would show as this roughness on the neck, but it may also occur on properly aligned dies.

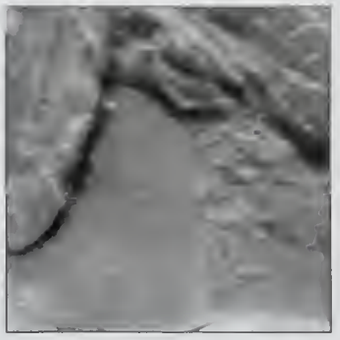
DIE CLASH REVERSE-NORMAL DIE ALIGNMENT

Obverse design elements appear on the reverse die after a strong die clash and before the die is lapped, or polished, to remove them. Generally, only those parts of the design transferred to the fields (the highest parts of the die itself) will show in the clash, but, in severe cases such as is seen on the 1913 Var 1 2HF and 3HL varieties they may show the shallower parts of the design, such as the Indian's neck as well. No coin will show the extent of clashing seen on the example shown here as the deepest parts of the design are never affected. It's difficult to envision how some of the moderately deep parts of the design on the die can clash, but the pattern of the clash on the Indian's neck, usually seen as a patch of roughness perfectly matches the fur from the upper back on the Bison, so apparently it does occasionally happen. This can be seen with particular clarity on the 1913 Var 1 2HF and 3HL mentioned above.

AN EXTREMELY STRONG DIE CLASH-1913-S VAR 1

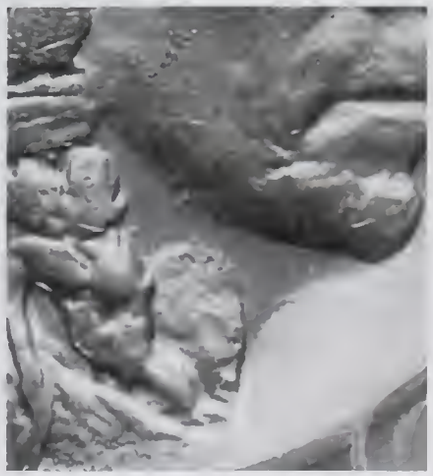






Shown above are several images of a 1913-S Variety One nickel displaying extreme and dramatic clashing. This example was from a normal die alignment. Here we see clashing evident from the reverse design in some of the recessed parts of the obverse die-second row-#1 above-the area below the Bison's neck; #2-the rear most portion of the Bison's back and showing the EPU clash clearly impressed on the Indian's neck; and #3 above-the area below the Bison's belly, resulting in a strong "mask." The photo to the right of the macro photo of the clashed die illustrates the area of roughness seen on many examples of Buffalo Nickels-this one from the 1916 2F variety but also seen on non-abraded dies dates as well. The author feels that this roughness is the result of a strong die clash from the Bison's "hump" from the reverse instead of the often cited die deterioration.

AN EXAMPLE OF OVERZEALOUS DIE POLISHING



This 1917 nickel is a visually impressive example of what can happen when the die polishing process becomes more aggressive than usual, this one probably a result of removal of the famous lettered chin clash. Note the missing neck as shown above-the entire neck is missing from the braid forward along the jaw line and clearly seen all the way to the chin. This is the most extensive example of die abrasion the author has seen. Coin reported by Chris Buck and photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions.

The exhibits were as follows:
Mr. Porter: Collection of freak U. S. coins including 1936 2½ legged Buffalo nickel, 1937 3 legged Buffalo nickel, 1918 over 1917 D nickel, 1942 over 1941 dime, 1945 leafed dime.

Could this be an even earlier report of the 1936-D 3 ½ legged variety than that shown from 1961? This report is from an exhibit shown at the Western Numismatic Society in August, 1949 and is courtesy of The American Numismatic Association.

Three Legged Nickels

I am wondering if you have ever heard of the 1936 three legged buffalo. I have one in about uncirculated condition, the same leg on this 1936 as the 1937-D is part missing, but there is a little more leg on this 1936. I have seen another 1936 three leg Buffalo nickel, in about VG-F condition. I have had this ever since the 1937-D was first reported, I don't become excited over these oddities, so I have mentioned it to but very few people. —C. J. Carlson, Boone, Iowa

(Ed. note: Yes, the 3-leg variety is known of several dates in addition to the popular 1937-D.)

A letter to the editor from the July, 1961 issue of NSM reporting a 1936 3 legged variety (did the submitter mean a "D" Mint coin? Or was it a reference to the counterfeit coin manufactured in 1936?)
The editor states that 3 legged varieties are known for "several dates." Might those other dates-possibly the 1917-D, 1926-D, and 1927-D-that were first reported recently-*could actually have been recognized way back in 1961?*

1937-D Three-legged Buffalo
Result of Polished Die

When C. L. Franzen discovered the 1937-D nickel on which one leg was missing everyone construed that it was merely a filled die. Mr. Franzen, who lived in Montana, found quite a few of them locally and advertised them in 1937 and 1938 NSM under nickname "Cowboy" Franzen. The accompanying illustration is from one of the discovery pieces furnished by Mr. Franzen.

As the years have gone by and the piece increased in price to where it became attractive for "sharpies" to remove a leg on regular 1937D, students studied the genuine pieces a bit closer. This close study has established that the missing leg was the result of polishing, or lapping, a damaged die. Therefore genuine pieces have differences, due to the polishing, not found on regular pieces of that year.

While it created several points of difference one of the very noticeable is that the polishing made the beard on the buffalo narrower than normal and also sharpened the tip ends of the beard.

Pictured above is a letter to the editor in the October, 1964 issue of the "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine stating the correct cause of the variety. It was previously thought that the missing leg was caused by a filled die.

EARLY REPORTS AND ARTICLES ON ADE

o Larry Seabury, Sarasota, Florida, reports a 1916-P nickel on which a filled die obliterated the designer's initial "F."

An early report-from July, 1961-of a missing initial (NF) variety.

Norman Carpenter, Philadelphia, 15, writes he has Buffalo-Indian head nickels with only two feathers showing, dated 1920-S and 1921-S. Out of circula-

An enlargement of the section of of the letter from 1952 on Page C-20 on a report of two 2F coins.

1921 No 3rd feather
BU 48.00

Shown above is an advertisement from the December, 1965 issue of "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine for a 1921 2F nickel. The normal die was listed in the 1966 Red Book for $36 in uncirculated grade.

Diminishing Chin

Irving Harris, Chicago, furnished the accompanying photo of 1918-S nickel on which the Indian has a diminishing chin and double profile. Probably a filled die. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have scanned thousands of nickels and have found 16 of the 3-legs over a period of years but only one of illustrated variety.

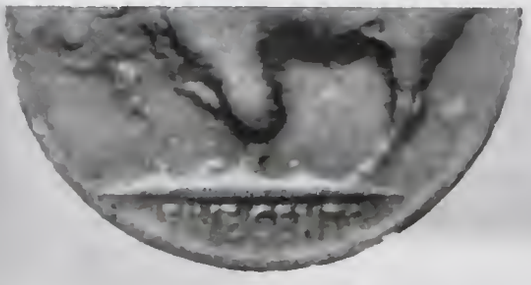
The very first report (that the author is aware of) of a "Drooping Chin" (DC) variety from the April, 1962 NSM where it is referred to as a "diminishing chin." This item is illustrated on Page A-13 of this book. The true cause is, of course, an abraded-not a filled-die. This date and Mint is the most commonly encountered DC. The doubled profile mentioned is machine or strike doubling and is of little or no consequence.

a	1915	two feathers, (fill die)	—
b	1915	double date	—
S434	1915D		7,567,000
a	1915D	letter chin, (clashed dies)	—
S435	1915S		1,505,000
a	1915S	let. chin	—
S436	1916		63,498,000
a	1916	double date, shift north	–
b	1916	two feathers, fill die	—
S437	1916D		13,333,000
a	1916D	double, LIBERTY	—
b	1916D	let. chin	—
S438	1916S		11,860,000
a	1916S	let chin	—
S439	1917		51,424,000
a	1917	two feathers	—

b	1920D	two feathers	—
S450	1920S		9.689.000
a	1920S	let. chin	—
b	1920S	double profile	—
S451	1921		10.663.000
a	1921	let. chin	—
b	1921	die br.. PLURIBUS	—
c	1921	two feathers	—
S452	1921S		1.557.000
S453	1923		35.715.000
a	1923	let. chin	—
S454	1923S		6.142.000
a	1923S	let. chin	—
S455	1924		21.620.000
a	1924	let. chin	—
S456	1924D		5.258.000
S457	1924S		1.437,000
a	1924S	let. chin	—
S458	1925		35,565.000
a	1925	let. chin	—
S459	1925D		4.450,000
a	1925D	let. chin	—
S460	1925S		6.256.000
a	1925S	let. chin	—
b	1925S	missing neck	—
c	1925S	two feathers	—
S461	1926		44,693,000
S462	1926D		5.638,000
S463	1926S		970,000
a	1926S	clash dies	—
S464	1927		37,981,000
S465	1927D		5,730,000
S466	1927S		3.430,000
a	1927S	two feathers	—

Listings of two feather and "Lettered Chin" (EPU clash) varieties from Frank Spadone's book on errors and varieties from the early 'sixties. The 1925-S "Missing Neck" is the same as the Broken Neck variety.

EARLY REPORTS AND ARTICLES ON ADE



1935-P
TWO-LEGGED
BUFFALO

$478	1935	.....	58,264,000	.20	.35	5.00
a	1935	double date.....	—	2.00	7.00	14.00
b	1935	two legged			RARE	
$479	1935D	.....	12,092,000	.20	.50	10.00
$480	1935S	.....	10,300,000	.20	.50	8.50
a	1935S	Double MM	—	9.50	17.00	40.00
$481	1936	.....	119,001,000	20	40	5.50
a	1936	two legs. (full die)	—	15.00	50.00	110.00

A listing in the 2nd edition (1963) of Frank Spadone's "Variety and Oddity Guide" of the so-called "Two Legged" varieties of the 1935 and 1936 Buffalo nickels. Both dates have since been determined to be counterfeits.

An example of both of the three legged dates from the author's personal collection. Both dates are rare but the 1935 is MUCH the rarer of the two. Of the four or five specimens the author has seen, the 1935 pictured above is by far the highest grade seen for either date.

OFF CENTER 1918-S 2F; SUPER CLASH 3C NICKEL; "EYEBALL" CLASH ON A 1924 BUFFALO NICKEL

A 20% off center 1918-S Two Feather (2F.) Like many off center strikes, this one shows 100% full details of the remaining design elements. Image courtesy of Harlan Berk from the "Quail Run Collection of Buffalo Nickel Errors."

ABOVE LEFT-An example of a "super-clashed" 3c copper-nickel three cent piece. Even though strong die clashes are very common for this series, this one is exceptional.

ABOVE-RIGHT-Two examples of what the author calls the "eyeball" die clash, the first on a 1919-S Buffalo nickel and the second on a 1924. These are Lone Ranger die clashes with the exact amount of die rotation needed to result in this phenomenon. A growing number of dates have been seen with this clash so it seems to be somewhat common.

ADE VARIETIES BY DATE (XX=TRUE 2F)

VARIETY 1	2F	NF	2FNF	3L	3HL	3HLR
01 1913						
02 1913-D	X				X	
03 1913-S		X	X			
VARIETY 2	**2F**	**NF**	**2FNF**	**3L**	**3HL**	**3HLR**
04 1913						
05 1913-D						
06 1913-S						
07 1914						X
08 1914-D						
09 1914-S						
10 1915	XX					
11 1915-D	XX					
12 1915-S						
13 1916	XX	X	X			
14 1916-D					X	
15 1916-S	XX					
16 1917	XX	X				
17 1917-D	X				X	
18 1917-S	XX	X	X			
19 1918	XX	X				
20 1918-D						
21 1918-S	XX	X	X			
	2F	**NF**	**2FNF**	**3L**	**3HL**	**3HLR**
22 1919	XX		X			
23 1919-D	XX					
24 1919-S	X					
25 1920	X					
26 1920-D	X					
27 1920-S	XX					
28 1921	XX					
29 1921-S	XX	X	X			
30 1923	XX					
31 1923-S		X				
32 1924		X				
33 1924-D						
34 1924-S						
35 1925						
36 1925-D	X					
37 1925-S	XX	X				
38 1926						
39 1926-D	X				X	
40 1926-S						
	2F	**NF**	**2FNF**	**3L**	**3HL**	**3HLR**
41 1927						
42 1927-D	X				X	
43 1927-S	X					
44 1928						
45 1928-D						
46 1928-S	X					
47 1929						
48 1929-D						
49 1929-S	XX					
50 1930		X				
51 1930-S	XX					
52 1931-S						
53 1934						
54 1934-D						
55 1935		X				
56 1935-D		X				
57 1935-S						
	2F	**NF**	**2FNF**	**3L**	**3HL**	**3HLR**
58 1936		X				
59 1936-D					X	
60 1936-S						
61 1937		X				
62 1937-D				X		X
63 1937-S						
64 1938-D						

PART ONE

THE TRADITIONAL ABRADED DIE VARIETIES

THE TRUE 2 FEATHER VARIETIES	PAGES	C-01	THRU	C-30
THE 2 ½ FEATHER VARIETIES	PAGES	D-01	THRU	D-03
NON-TRADITIONAL ADE VARIETIES-KNOWN DATES	PAGE			D-04
THE FLOATING JAW VARIETIES	PAGES	E-01	THRU	E-08
THE MISSING DESIGNER'S INITIAL VARIETIES	PAGES	F-01	THRU	F-08
THE MISSING DESIGNER'S-PARTIAL INITIAL DATES	PAGE			F-09
THE 2 FTHR + MISSING DESIGNER'S INITIAL VARIETIES	PAGES	G-01	THRU	G-11
THE 3 AND 3 ½ LEGGED VARIETIES	PAGES	H-01	THRU	H-20
ADDENDUM-NEW ADE VARIETIES	PAGES	I-01	THRU	I-06

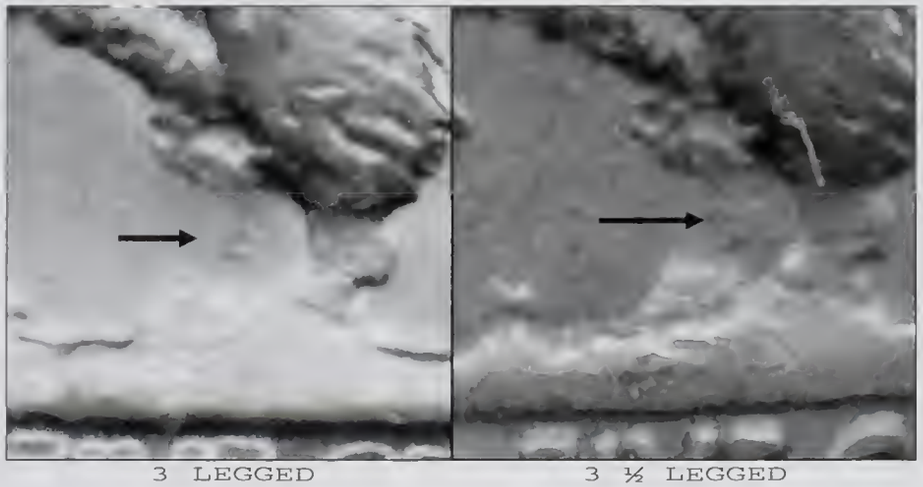
A PCGS Mint State 62 example of the 1936-D 3HL variety. Currently, this may be one of only two known examples of this variety in Mint State (the other is an ANACS MS63) though it's likely that both may be one and the same coin, in which case it would be unique in Mint state. See pages G14 and G15. Photos courtesy of Heritage Galleries.

PART ONE THE TRADITIONAL ABRADED DIE VARIETIES (5 TOTAL)

OBVERSE ABRADED DIES

2 FEATHER | MISSING INITIAL | 2 FTHR + MISSING INITIAL

REVERSE ABRADED DIES



3 LEGGED | 3 ½ LEGGED

These abraded die varieties are well known and in demand to varying degrees, with the 3 legged issue of 1937 in a class by itself in this regard and the 3 ½ legged issues of 1916, 1917, 1926, 1927, and, especially, the 1936-D showing an increasing collector base. The missing initial varieties have been collected for some time, but have been restricted to a couple of well known dates. Additional dates are listed herein, but these coins are now listed *ONLY* if they have a *TOTALLY EFFACED* initial-in other words, with *NO* part of the "F" showing at all. Only those dates that have been personally seen by the author or where reliable reports of the variety have been reported can be found herein. This change was necessitated by a disagreement as to whether those coins showing any part of the initial should be collected as a part of the missing initial ADE or not. The two feather varieties have increased in popularity, too, in the last few years. Values for many of the traditional ADE (other than the 1936-D 3HL and 1937-D 3L which are very well established) can be stated with some confidence as the sales of most have become commonplace and good sales records exist. A listing of the currently known dates with a partial initial is provided at the end of the NF section.

AN UP ARROW OR A DOWN ARROW

after the ***value summaries*** *(pages 216 & 217)* indicates a *change in value from the previous printing.* These changes are taken from actual sales of the variety whenever possible, but may also be due to changes in value for the regular, or normal non-variety issue.

Dual values are listed for the 2F, 2F+NF, and 3HL varieties where there are sales records for slabbed coins. *Problem free* coins slabbed and attributed by one of the leading certification companies, usually PCGS, can result in *much* higher prices and sales records than for the same coin that is raw or unslabbed. *Values for PCGS slabbed examples of many of the more popular ADE varieties, especially the 2F coins, have been very volatile in the last few years*-largely due, in the author's opinion, to the PCGS registry sets. It's not uncommon for higher grade certified coins to sell for multiples of the prices set just a few months previously for the same varieties. These values are subject to rapid and extreme changes which may not always reflect an accurate long term value for the coin-these may even affect the values of raw coins.

Accurate pricing for these coins can be very difficult to establish and any values listed here must be viewed with the comments above in mind.

****

THE URS RARITY SCALE

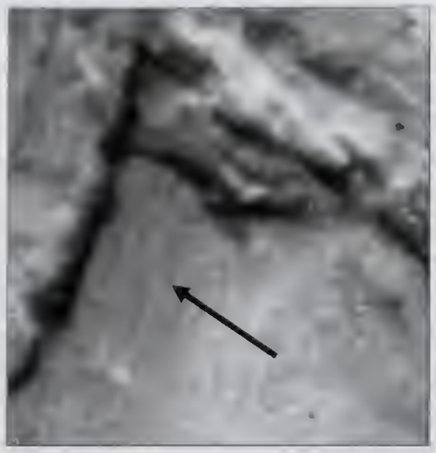
Compiled by Q. David Bowers. This is a much more precise and useful rarity scale than the Sheldon Rarity Scale more commonly seen. The URS Rarity Scale is used throughout this book.

URS SCALE	AS DEFINED IN THIS BOOK
URS 00	UNKNOWN
URS 01	ONE KNOWN
URS 02	TWO KNOWN
URS 03	3 OR 4 KNOWN
URS 04	5 TO 8 KNOWN
URS 05	9 TO 16 KNOWN
URS 06	17 TO 32 KNOWN
URS 07	33 TO 64 KNOWN
URS 08	65 TO 125 KNOWN
URS 09	126 TO 250 KNOWN
URS 10	251 TO 500 KNOWN
URS 11	501 TO 1,000 KNOWN
URS 12	1,001 TO 2,000 KNOWN
URS 13	2,001 TO 4,000 KNOWN
URS 14	4,001 TO 8,000 KNOWN
URS 15	8,001 TO 16,000 KNOWN

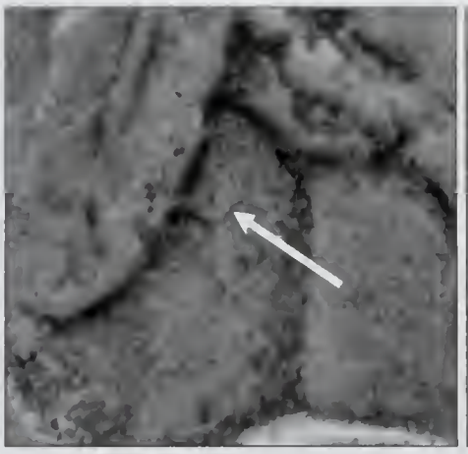
NONE REPORTED	
UNIQUE	
PROHIBITIVELY	RARE
EXTREMELY	RARE
EXTREMELY	RARE
VERY	RARE
VERY	RARE
	RARE
	RARE
VERY	SCARCE
	SCARCE
RELATIVELY	COMMON
RELATIVELY	COMMON
	COMMON
	COMMON
	COMMON

ET CETERA

SECTION C THE 2 FEATHER (2F) VARIETIES (27)



A true 2 feather.



A small remnant remains. In the author's opinion, a coin that shows any more of the feather than the two shown would be a 2 ½ feather variety.

#01	1913-D VAR 1	PAGE C-02
#02	1915	C-03
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#08	1917-S	C-09
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INDICATES A TRUE 2F VARIETY

1915-D DATES WITH A BLACK BACKGROUND HEADING AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE ARE TRUE 2 FEATHER VARIETIES, SHOWING A COMPLETELY EFFACED, OR, AT THE MOST, JUST A TINY TRACE OF THE SMALL FEATHER. **19** DATES ARE LISTED AS TRUE 2F VARIETIES.

1917-D DATES WITH A DARK GRAY BACKGROUND HEADING AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE SHOW A SMALL REMNANT OF THE 3RD FEATHER. **8** DATES OF THE "NON-TRUE 2 FEATHERS" ARE LISTED.

Though all dates listed (27) are usually collected as 2F varieties, *some collectors may prefer to consider only the true 2 feather varieties when assembling a collection of this type of ADE.* Slabbed and attributed 2F coins are worth more, sometimes ***substantially*** more, than raw coins, hence there are dual listings for these ADE varieties listed in this book-one for raw coins (R) and one for slabbed coins (S). At the present time PCGS only recognizes the 2F dates that are listed in the "Cherrypicker's Guide" in the PCGS registry sets. Those not listed are still designated as 2 feather varieties but are also labeled "minor" varieties even though all are 2F coins. This can have an enormous impact on values.

This type of variety has gained tremendously in popularity in the last few years. It has become a recognized and very collectable abraded die error. Some of the scarcer dates and those in the higher grade ranges have brought very impressive premiums on ebay and in other venues. Much of this increased popularity can be attributed to an article in "The Coin Dealer Newsletter" (Greysheet) by Bill Fivaz and to the fact that this is a very obvious "naked eye" variety-no microscope is needed to see this one! Some of the more frequently encountered dates (1916; 1921) were reported many years ago-for example, in the Spadone "Variety and Oddity" guide, first published in 1963, but most other dates were generally unknown or unreported until recent years. Many dates are of considerable rarity, especially at the higher grade levels. Future discoveries will be listed as they are reported and inserted into this section (as they are one of the major ADE varieties) rather than in the addendum. This arrangement will apply to the 3 and 3HL and 2F3HL coins as well. The effacement of the small feather was caused by the same process as caused the 3 and 3 ½ legged varieties-the removal of clash marks-in this case, from the obverse die. **A few dates of this variety are found in more than one die stage of the same die. These will be designated as #1a and #1b. Entirely new dies are given separate numbers-#01 and #02 for example. Die stages are differentiated if the difference is *significant,* which would usually mean naked-eye visible.**

1913-D-1 ADO 2F #01

B05-13D12F-01 **FS#-05-1913D-401**

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This date is not overly difficult to find and often comes in high grade. This is also a significant "Broken Neck" variety but, of course, the 2F ADE takes precedence although "ghost" of the third feather still shows. One characteristic of this variety is the solid Mint mark seen on all specimens examined.

Of note concerning *all* the two feather varieties is the effect that a listing in the "Cherrypicker's Guide" has on values. PCGS will attribute those not listed but calls them "minor varieties." These are, therefore, not part of any registry set and tend to be valued MUCH lower than those coins that have an FS number. Several true 2 feather dates have yet to be listed in the CPG-hopefully this will change with the next edition.

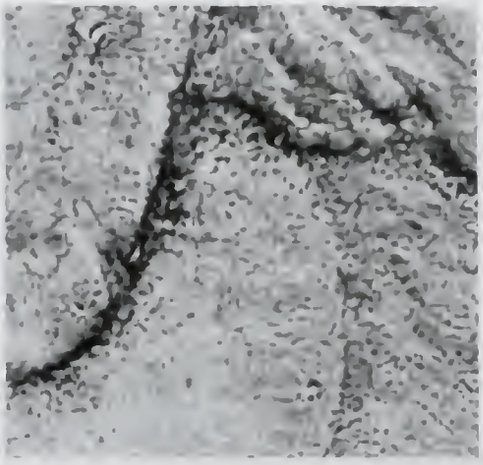
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$ 80	$ 115	$ 140	$ 175	$ 250	$ 350	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	150	200	250	400	650	1250

1915 ADO 2F #02

B05-15P2F-01 & 02 FS#-05-1915P-401



GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

One of possibly four abraded die obverse attenuated feather varieties known for the year, with two showing a part of the small feather and therefore classified as 2HF varieties and one of the other two showing a very weak designer's initial as well as the missing feather. The die pictured above, left, is the most highly sought of the four. The "F" can be very weak on this coin, as pictured. On a much later die state the "F" may disappear entirely, thus producing a 1915 2FNF variety. It's possible this die may be a later die stage of the known 2F die, but after the author received an excellent picture of the second coin pictured above from Mark Hess a second die for this variety seems more likely but this has yet to be verified. Note the weakness in "E PLURIBUS UNUM" that is a direct result of the abrading process itself. A PCGS MS63 example of this variety sold for $3,055 at auction in July, 2013. Photos courtesy of Mark Hess & Dr Jim Letson.

NOTES

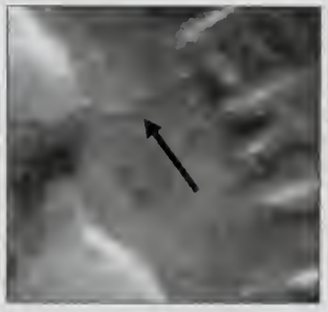
ESTIMATED VALUE

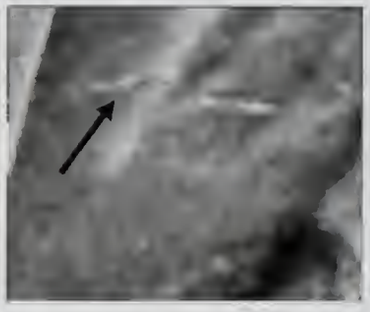
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$ 175	$ 300	$ 425	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	65	100	130	215	375	550	875	1150	1650	---

1915-D ADO 2F #03

B05-15D2F-01 FS#-05-1915D-401

COIN COURTESY OF JOHN HOUGH





GENERAL RARITY

Rare-estimated **URS 05** 33 to 64 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is a very difficult coin to find. Its die life was probably substantially limited by the numerous die cracks across much of the obverse as is shown in the photos above. A die that lacks these die cracks has been reported but not confirmed. Whether this second die is an earlier die stage of the one known die or is a different die altogether is yet to be determined. Regardless, it remains one of the very rarest of the 2F varieties.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 50	$ 85	$ 125	$ 200	$ 300	$ 400	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1916 ADO 2F #04

B05-16P2F-MULTI DIES FS#-05-1916P-401

GENERAL RARITY

Relatively common-estimated **URS 12** 1001 to 2000 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Several different dies exist for the 1916 2F variety, making it the most commonly encountered in the series for the type-to the extent that even Mint state examples are not particularly rare. Much further study must be done to break these down into individual dies. Note the remains of the Bison's fur (from his back) still easily seen as roughness on the Indian's neck at both the front and back of the neck. This is probably the result of a die clash and is seen on most every date in the series, even those without any abraded die errors. Heavy die polish lines behind the neck are also seen on at least one of the other dies.

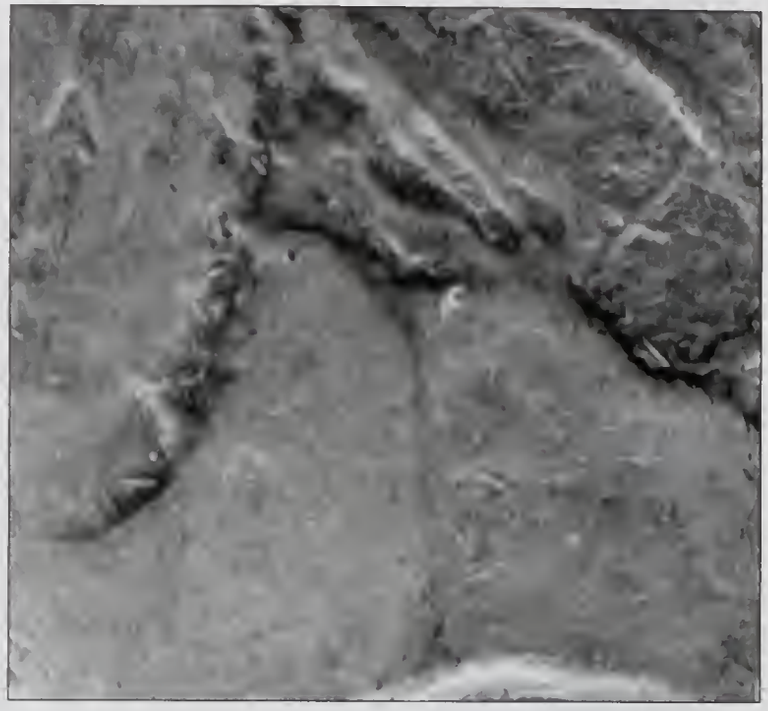
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 5	$ 8	$ 15	$ 30	$ 50	$ 100	$ 135	$ 200	$ 350	$ ---
S	---	---	---	65	90	135	175	300	775	1250

1916-S ADO 2F #05

B05-16S2F-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**



COIN COURTESY OF JOHN HOUGH

GENERAL RARITY

Very rare-estimated **URS 06** 17 to 32 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported in 2001. Values are still somewhat uncertain as so few have been sold. Values listed in grades below XF are based on the sale of one coin each in XF and AU. At this point it seems to be one of the most difficult of the two feather varieties to find. It is considered to be a true two feather variety in spite of the very tiny remnant (much less than any of the 2HF varieties) of the third feather still present on all specimens seen.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 75	$ 85	$ 125	$ 200	$ 300	$ 400	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1917 ADO 2F #06

B05-17P2F-01 & 02 FS#-05-1917P-401

GENERAL RARITY

Rare-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

At least two dies. Findable with some persistence-not as scarce as the 1917-D but scarcer than the 1917-S. Note the very heavy die polish lines behind the neck on the first die-the most prominent for any two feather date in the series-they are so heavy that they look like actual scratches and can be mistaken for damage. The second die without these die scratches is also shown.

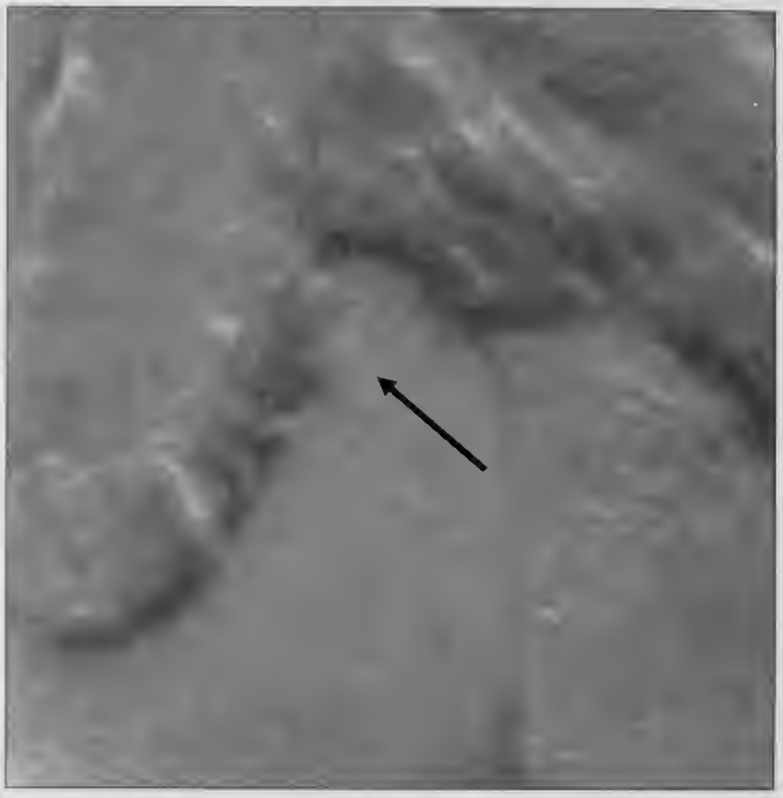
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 45	$ 65	$ 115	$ 180	$ 325	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	50	100	200	400	750	1000	2000	---	---

1917-D ADO 2F #07

B05-17D2F-01 **FS#-05-1917D-401**



GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 07** 33 to 64 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is the toughest of the attenuated feather varieties for the three Mints of the year by a significant margin. High grade coins in particular are very rare, but even low to mid grade specimens are difficult to find. Even though a tiny remnant of the small feather remains this date is listed in the "Cherrypicker's Guide" and is therefore recognized and attributed as a 2 feather by the leading certification companies. Coin courtesy of John Hough.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 35	$ 85	$ 250	$ 400	$ 650	$ 850	$1150	$ ---	$ ---
S	40	70	150	---	---	2000	---	---	---	---

1917-S ADO 2F #08

B05-17S2F-01 FS#-05-1917S-401

IMAGE COURTESY OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

The most frequently encountered of the three 1917 two feather coins, but, as would be expected, it is quite rare in any grade better than Fine. It seems to be considerably scarcer than the 1917-S two feather/no F coin. A second die shows very evident attenuation (weakness) at the tip of the large feather but also shows a tiny remnant of the third feather. A PCGS slabbed example graded Good 04 sold for almost $90 on ebay in March of 2012. There is also an extensive record of sales in the Heritage Archives.

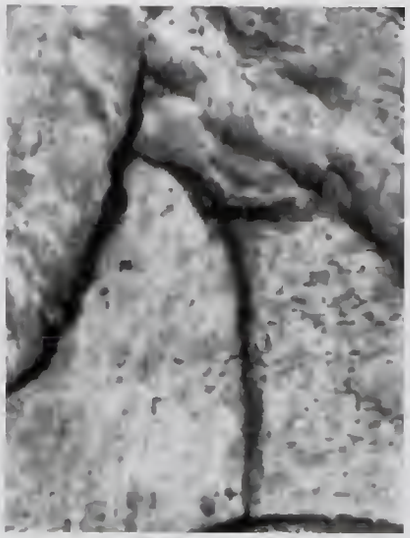
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 35	$ 85	$ 175	$ 400	$ 525	$ 650	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	50	85	150	300	500	750	1150	1750	3000	---

1918 ADO 2F #09

B05-18P2F-01 **FS#-05-1918P-401**



Above-upper right-finest slabbed-sold by Heritage at the 2014 FUN show for $12,925.

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

At least two slightly different dies (both shown above.) Overall, much tougher to find than the 1918-S, but, to a greater degree than that coin it does occasionally turn up in high grade-as would be expected since it is a Philadelphia Mint issue and not nearly as scarce in high grade as the early branch mint Buffalos regardless of the specific die. High grade examples can bring very impressive prices-a PCGS AU55 coin sold for $3290 in April, 2013 and an MS64 example, currently the finest certified and also slabbed by PCGS brought $12,925 in January, 2014. Both auctions were conducted by Heritage Auctions of Dallas, TX.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 50	$ 70	$ 125	$ 150	$ 350	$1000	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	50	85	110	175	525	1500	---	---	13000	---

1918-S ADO 2F #10

B05-18S2F-01a & 01b FS#-05-1918S-401

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Possibly two known dies. Somewhat easy to find compared to many other 2F varieties. Not at all difficult to find in low grade, but, of course, much tougher in any grade better than fine. Note that a small portion of the back of the neck is missing on this variety. A partial "mask" can be seen behind the eye. Pictured below this image is a possible new die, reported by Jan Williams in June, 2012. This coin shows a strong "broken neck" variety. It is not yet known if this is an entirely new die or an advanced die stage of the known die. It will be listed as a new die stage until it can be shown to be a new die. Values for both stages are the same.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 100	$ 225	$ 450	$ 750	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	50	100	150	275	600	*1150*	*2750*	4250	---	---

1919 ADO 2F #11

B05-19P2F-01+ **FS#-05-1919P-401**

IMAGE COURTESY OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

More than one die exists, and this date is about average in availability for the type. One die even shows very evident incompleteness at the top and top back of the head and very strong die polish lines behind the neck. It is sometimes seen in nice, high grade. On this die the small feather is totally effaced, and it often comes with a complete, full strike. Several of this variety have been slabbed and attributed that show a significant part of the feather remaining. The author considers these to be 2 ½ feathers, and since the best die(s) show total feather effacement these should be the ones collectors strive to obtain for any two feather set-once again, in the author's opinion.

Many of the ADE varieties will show a full or nearly full strike, probably because of the minute reduction in the relief between the fields and devices caused by the abrasion process.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 7	$ 10	$ 20	$ 50	$ 100	$ 200	$ 300	$ 375	$ ---	$ ---
S	35	65	85	165	265	425	700	850	1850	---

1919-D ADO 2F #12

B05-19D2F-01 FS#-05-1919D-401

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANR/STACKS

GENERAL RARITY

Rare-estimated **URS 07** 33 to 64 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported sometime in the mid 1990's and still considered to be one of the tougher dates of the variety. An advanced die stage is also missing the "F"-this is not a true die variety, though some collectors may wish to collect it as a distinct 2FNF type. The date and LIBERTY on this coin are usually weak and mushy. The coin pictured is a rare exception.

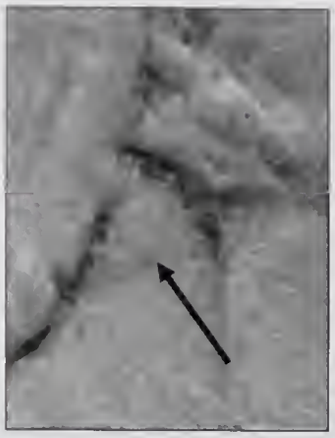
NOTES

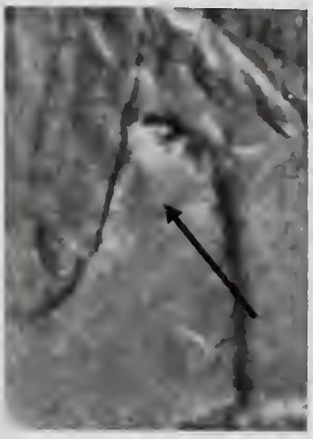
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 50	$ 75	$ 135	$ 275	$ 425	$ 600	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	85	165	240	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1919-S ADO 2F #13

B05-19S2F-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**





GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

More than one die exists for this date but it is quite scarce nonetheless. A small remnant of the third feather remains on this date on both dies shown though the second die (right, above) seems to be a little weaker than the first die. This second die actually approaches the status of a true two feather variety and may be considered as such by some collectors. A few sales records exist but the values shown are taken from old sales and current values would likely be somewhat lower.

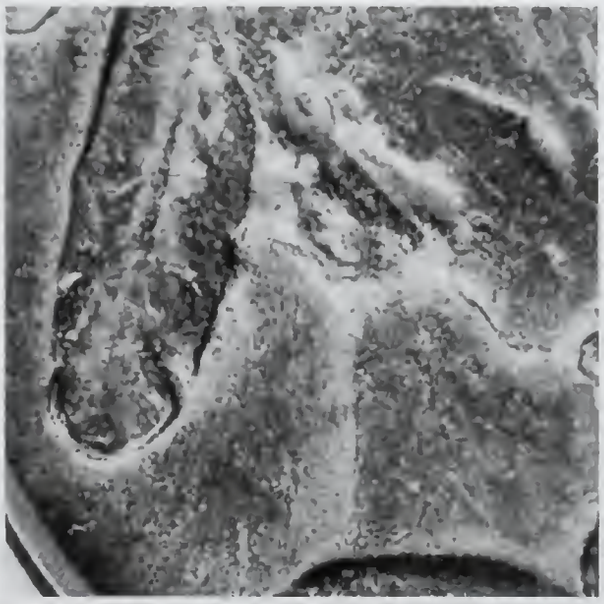
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 35	$ 75	$ 125	$ 300	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	170	---	650	---	---	---	---	---

1920 ADO 2F #14

B05-20P2F-01 FS#-05-1920P-401



IMAGES COURTESY OF RICH UHRICH

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This variety was previously listed as a non-true 2F variety but this is a new true 2F die reported by Rich Uhrich in August of 2016 and has replaced that previous listing. At least two other dies exist but both show a small portion of the feather remaining. Note the strong remnant of the die clash above the Indian's nose. This is the field around the Bison's rear leg. It's a very commonly seen die clash in this series though on the coin pictured it is exceptionally prominent. One of the non-true 2F dies also show this clash- this die shouldn't be confused with the die shown, which shows virtually no feather. Values below are past auctions for the better of the two dies with the partial feather. This true 2F die should be worth at least the values listed.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 10	$ 15	$ 30	$ 50	$ 85	$ 115	$ 200	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	165	---	---	1250	2250	---	---

1920-D ADO 2F #15

B05-20D2F-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Rarity at this time is not known with any precision, but it certainly must be one of the toughest of the variety. A small portion of the third feather is still present, but, like the other dates listed here showing an incomplete effacement of the small feather this is often collected as a true 2F variety. Note the numerous rim cuds on the coin pictured-these may have severely limited the life of the die. The coin provided to the author for imaging was courtesy of Bryan Caforio.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 40	$ 85	$ 250	$ 350	$ 650	$1250	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	650	---	---	---	---	---

1920-S ADO 2F #16

B05-20S2F-01 FS#-05-1920S-401

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated URS 09 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This date is one of the more recent discoveries of the two feather variety. Like the 1919-D 2F, the date is almost always weak, especially on the "19." Not difficult to find in the lower circulated grades of Good thru Fine but it is a very difficult variety in any higher grade than Fine. Values below for PCGS slabbed examples of this 2F variety are based on the sale of a VG10 for $230 in the 2012 FUN auction. An MS63 was sold for $6000 in a private sale in April of 2014.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 20	$ 85	$ 200	$ 400	$ 700	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	85	135	250	550	800	1750	6000	---	---

1921 ADO 2F #17

B05-21P2F-MULTI DIES FS#-05-1921P-401

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 11** 501 to 1000 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

One of the three or four most common dates for the two feather varieties. With a low mintage and a limited number of dies used it is not difficult to find except in the AU and Mint state grades, and even then it isn't overly rare. More than one die is known-possibly as many as three or four different dies, one of which the author calls the "eyeball" variety-the clash resembles an eye (pictured). The die illustrated is also a Broken Nose variety and, in addition, is a minor example of the drooping chin variety as well. Note the very strong die polish lines evident behind and ***on*** the neck-some of the strongest seen on any date of this variety. A PCGS VF25 slabbed example of this variety sold for $400 in the 2012 Heritage CSNS sale, quite high when compared to a raw coin, while an ***unattributed*** PCGS MS65 specimen sold for over $3000 in an October, 2012 auction-also very high when compared to similar coins sold previous to this one.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 10	$ 20	$ 40	$ 85	$ 125	$ 165	$ 200	$ 400	$ 600	$1750
S	25	35	65	115	250	500	750	1000	1750	2500

1921-S ADO 2F #18

B05-21S2F-01 FS#-05-1921S-401

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

It has not been too difficult to find in the past because of the limited number of dies used for this date and Mint and also that this particular die probably had a near full run. This has changed somewhat as this variety has become more recognized and popular in recent years. Many have already been cherrypicked from dealer's stock. A much rarer die exists that is also missing the designer's initial in addition to the missing feather. This is also a drooping chin ADE. As with other key and semi-key dates that exhibit the abraded die varieties, the high values listed for this date are partially the result of high values for the normal dies and not necessarily for the rarity of the variety itself.

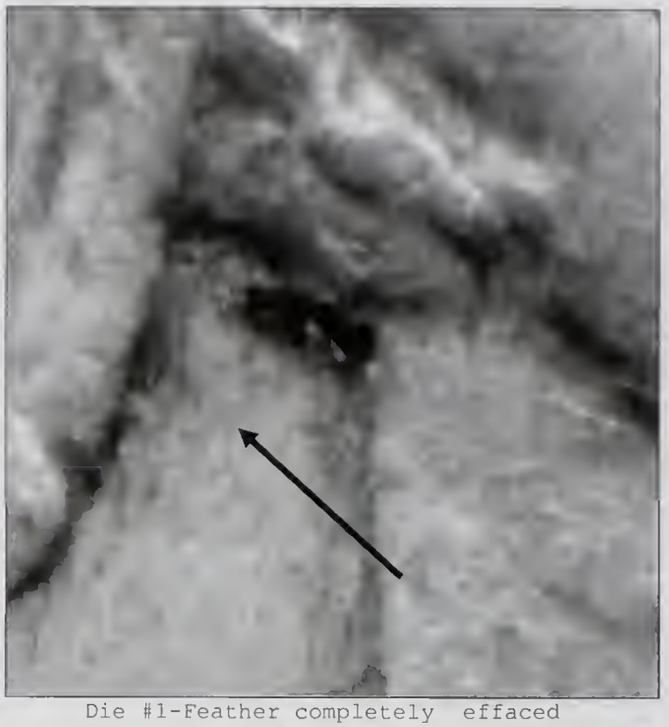
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

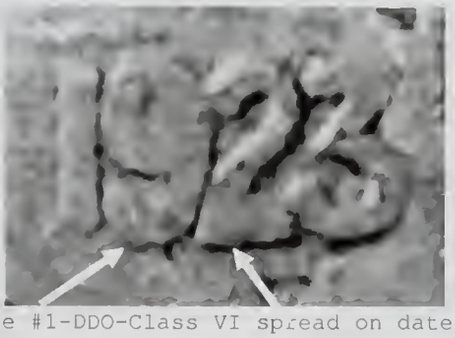
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 50	$ 115	$ 250	$ 650	$1350	$1950	$2250	$3000	$ ---	$ ---
S	100	200	300	750	1550	2150	2650	3350	---	---

1923 ADO 2F #19

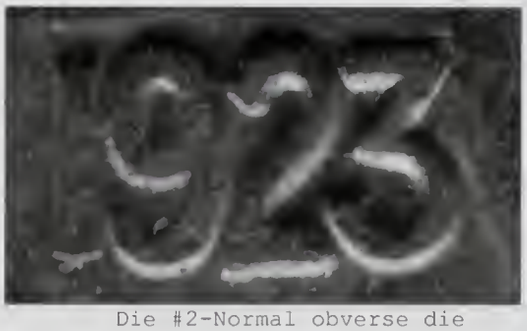
B05-23P2F-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**



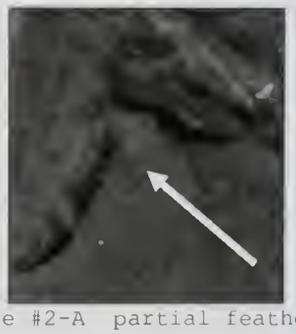
Die #1-Feather completely effaced



Die #1-DDO-Class VI spread on date, evident at the bottom of the 9 & 2



Die #2-Normal obverse die lacks the Class VI DDO on the 9 & 2



Die #2-A partial feather still remains

GENERAL RARITY

Very rare-estimated **URS 06** 17 to 32 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Two different dies, both of which seem to be genuinely tough to find; both are among the rarest for this ADE type. Die #1, by far the most desirable of the two dies, has no trace of the feather and has the added attraction of also being a doubled die obverse (1-O-VI), noted by the extra thickness of the date at the bottoms of the "9" and "3". Even though this doubled die is a suspected working hub variety (a very similar 1923-S doubled die is known) the doubled die feature should still add to the demand (and to the value) for this die. The primary reason for this enhanced value, however, is because Die #1 is a true 2F variety. The Die #2 pictured was submitted by Rich Uhrich. An MS64 specimen of Die #2 sold for $500 on ebay in Feb, 2009. This is one of, if not THE toughest, 2F date.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 50	$ 75	$ 100	$ 175	$ 250	$ 400	$ 600	$ 850	$1000	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1925-D ADO 2F #20

B05-25D2F-01 FS#-05-1925D-401

GENERAL RARITY

Rare-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

A very small portion of the feather as seen above is still present on this date. Considerably more difficult to find than the "S" Mint variety, and one of the toughest for the variety. This is also a "broken neck" variety, but is only recognized under the 2 feather classification since it is much better known for the attenuated feather. Note the extensive die damage from the die polishing that shows on the cheek, the bottom of the jaw, the chin, and the front of the neck on the coin shown. Coin courtesy of John Hough.

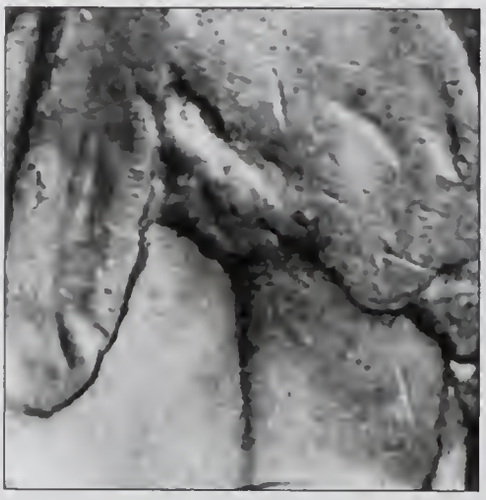
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

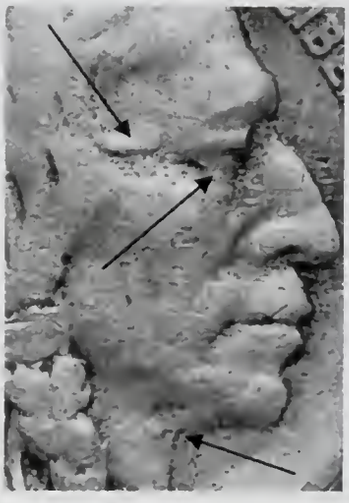
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 35	$ 75	$ 115	$ 225	$ 450	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	250	350	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1925-S ADO 2F #21

B05-25S2F-01,02,03 **FS#-05-1925S-401**



PHOTOS (ABOVE) COURTESY OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES



GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Three or more dies. Not too difficult to find in grades up to and including Fine. Many of this variety are struck from badly eroded dies with incomplete detailing, especially on the reverse, as seen above, right. Note the strong clashing still evident on the bottom coin pictured. An MS64, possibly the finest known, sold on ebay for just under $6000 in a BIN in July, 2013-a bargain price in the opinion of the author.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$ 175	$ 275	$ 400	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	30	40	75	250	400	500	---	---	5250	---

1926-D ADO 2F #22

B05-26D2F-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

IMAGES COURTESY OF AARON KEENA

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This date was added after the author saw an image of a later die stage of the coin from a listing on ebay by Aaron Keena (nwcoingallery.) A very tiny part of the small feather can still be seen on the later die stages but it is almost always included in a 2F set (as it should be) and these die stages can be accepted as such if no more of the feather is present than is shown in the images above. Earlier die stages of this die will show more of the feather and may be considered by many as a 2HF variety. Even though several transactions have been recorded for this variety, it nevertheless seems to be quite scarce.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 45	$ 75	$ 115	$ 250	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	100	135	325	---	---	---	---	---

1927-D ADO 2F #23

B05-27D2F-01 **FS#-05-1927D-401**

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Formerly listed as a true 2F variety from a coin that showed a light, even coat of corrosion that obscured the small feather, this has since been determined to show a small portion of the third feather by examination of a better specimen. Any new potential 2F that shows more of the small feather than this one should be classified as a 2 ½ feather instead in the opinion of the author. This date ***has*** been attributed as a 2F by at least one slabbing company (the old ANACS.)

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 35	$ 50	$ 75	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1927-S ADO 2F #24

B05-27S2F-01 FS#-05-1927S-401

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Two dies, which is somewhat surprising considering the apparent scarcity of this date. Both retain a small portion of the third feather, with the first die showing a small "island" remaining, as shown above. The author has seen many of this date over the years, slabbed and attributed as a 2F by a leading certification company, that appeared to have a little too much of the feather still showing to be called a 2F, at least by the standards stated in this book.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 20	$ 40	$ 85	$ 150	$ 325	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	135	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1928-S ADO 2F #25

B05-28S2F-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Sales that have been recorded are for a Fine for $180 in May, 2009, and for an AU that sold for $450 in November, 2010. In the author's opinion, the lower values listed below may be a more accurate assessment of current values. A tiny bit of the feather can still be seen. In addition, there's a die clash of the Bison's neck and the front part of the hump on the coin pictured that can mimic a remnant of the small feather-this is a very common occurrence on this series.

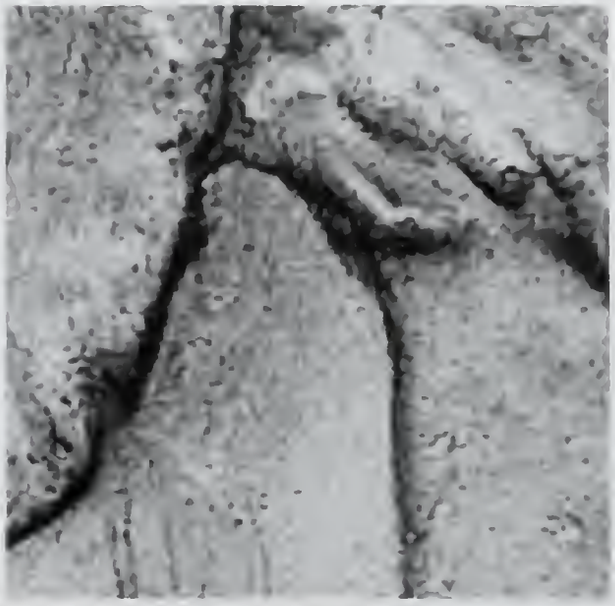
NOTES

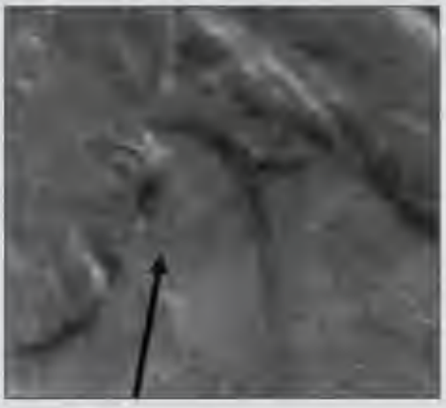
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 25	$ 35	$ 65	$ 175	$ 400	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1150	---	---

1929-S ADO 2F #26

B05-29S2F-01 FS#-05-1929S-401





GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

The feather is totally effaced. Even though a number have turned up recently, mainly in the circulated grades, it is still considered to be one of the scarcer of the true two feather varieties. A couple of Mint state coins have sold at very high levels-a PCGS MS65 specimen brought $3525 in June, 2016 in an auction conducted by Heritage, and in April, 2016 a PCGS AU55 sold for $575. A partial "mask" and a moderately strong "drooping chin" can be seen on this die. At least two other dies are known-one of which shows a complete but very weak "ghost" of the small feather (#2 above.) Values listed and the listing itself are for the die with the totally effaced feather; the others are probably worth considerably less.

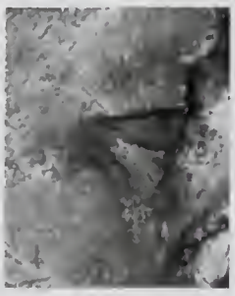
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 5	$ 10	$ 25	$ 60	$ 85	$ 125	$ 400	$ 625	$ 850	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	475	650	1150	1500	3500

1930-S ADO 2F #27

B05-30S2F-01 FS#-05-1930S-401



The "eyeball" die clash as seen on this date.

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Although this variety has been known for some time, it remains one of the scarcer of the true two feather coins. A fairly significant "broken neck" (BNK) and a minor "drooping chin" (DC) are also present on this coin, but the 2F designation takes precedence. It also has the distinction of being the latest date true two feather variety yet reliably reported. Several mid grade specimens have sold for extraordinary prices in the last couple of years. A PCGS Fine 12 specimen sold for $150 on ebay in July of 2011. Note that this coin is an excellent example (the best the author has seen) of the "eyeball" die clash variety.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 25	$ 40	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	35	75	150	215	425	---	---	---	---	---

Do You Remember?

Recollections gleaned from Scrapbook files.

Twenty Years Ago
August 1952

Platform of the Republican party calls for a return to the gold standard on a fully convertible basis.

On June 25, the bureau of Customs issued circular 2798 citing gold coins struck abroad which may not be imported into the United States. These include Albania 100 franka, 1926 and 1927; Austria ducat, four ducat and 20 corona, all 1915; 100 corona, 1908, 1914 and 1915; 100 kronen, 1923 and 1924; France 20 franc 1901 through 1921; Hungary 100 korona, 1907 and 1908; and Peru 20, 50 and 100 soles, 1950 and 1951.

In his "Numismatography of the Lincoln Head Cent," E. V. Wallace writes, "A sound economy needs a sound foundation of the kind that cannot be provided by uncontrolled, inconvertible paper money."

Norman Carpenter, Philadelphia, 15, writes he has Buffalo-Indian head nickels with only two feathers showing, dated 1920-S and 1921-S. Out of circulation he has found an 1897-S quarter; 1918-D quarter; 1878-S silver dollar; 1907 uncirculated nickel; 1914-D cent; 1904-S dime; 1921 dime, and a 1937-D three-legged nickel.

It has been learned that coin dealers Ruth Green, Abe Kosoff and Sol Kaplan supplied a substantial part of the coins acquired by the late Lammont DuPont.

North Penn Stamp and Coin Club, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, meets each third Tuesday evening at Quakertown airport.

Philadelphia Mint reports striking 1,250,000 40-centavo coins for Cuba; also, 6,720,000 20-centavo pieces and 10,000,000 10-centavo coins.

The Algerian government inaugurated an official gold market May 26.

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Editor Lee Hewitt
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bert O. Sullivan, St.
; Ernest W. Nelson,
retary; Hjalmer
reasurer; and Oce
historian.

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1851 $50 gold slug,
.880, VG, $156; 30
o, Kirkpatrick and
930 Russia platinum
$22.50

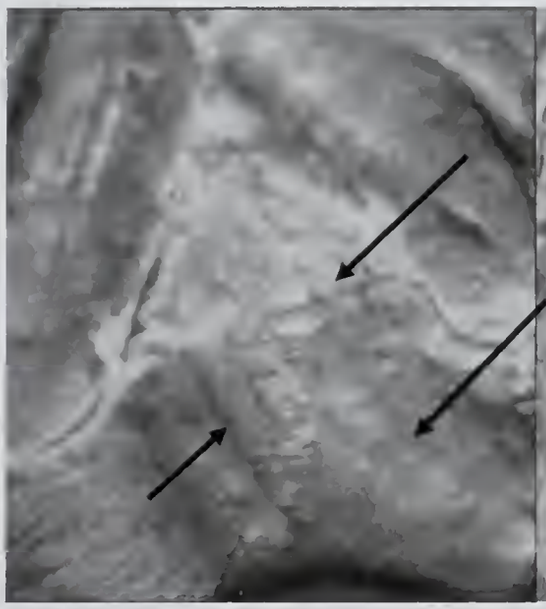
Norman Carpenter, Philadelphia, 15, writes he has Buffalo-Indian head nickels with only two feathers showing, dated 1920-S and 1921-S. Out of circula-

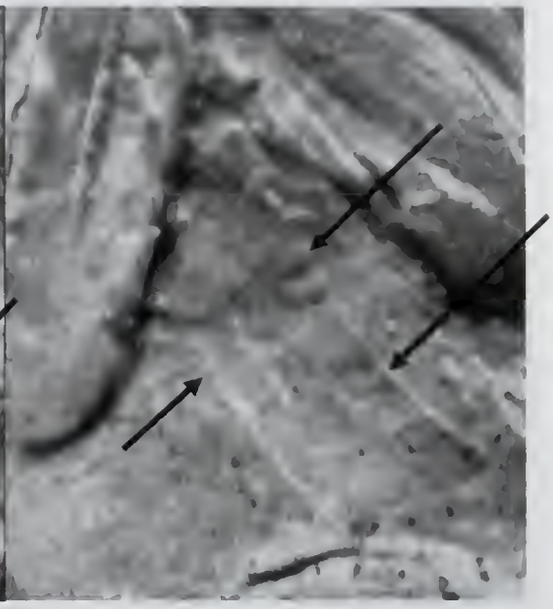
This is the earliest mention, from the August, 1952 issue of the "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine, that the author has seen concerning the two feather varieties. It's almost certain, however, that the variety was noticed long before this.

HOBO NICKELS BY ALEKSEY SABUROV

The Wild Things by Aleksey Saburov. See pages M38 and M39 for more of these exceptional modern Hobo nickels.

SECTION D THE 2½ FEATHER (2HF) VARS (1 TOT)





ABOVE-LEFT The variety slabbed and attributed in a SEGS slab.

ABOVE-CENTER What appears to be the remnants of the Bison's hump can be seen on this photo of the 1913 2HF variety with a normal four-legged reverse. There was significant die rotation when the dies clashed. Also shown is the variety attributed in a SEGS slab.

ABOVE-RIGHT This same die clashes also seen on the obverse of the 1913 3HL variety. Both are nearly identical-enough to show that both coins were struck from the same obverse die. The reverse die from both the normal four legged coin and the 3HL variety also show many common die markers, also proving that both are different die stages of the same reverse die.

Ordinarily, this variety would not be listed in this book since it is one of the "non-traditional" abraded die varieties, little known and of low demand. But it is of special significance because this is the obverse die of the 3 ½ legged reverse paired with that reverse BEFORE the leg was attenuated. This coin is a rare, significant and very collectable variety on it's own-much more so than the other 2HF varieties but it is not nearly as rare (or valuable) as when it is combined with the 3 ½ leg reverse. Due to the great rarity of the 3 ½ legged coin, this may be a suitable "filler" for that coin. At the present time, this will be the only non-traditional variety listed in this book. A list of the dates known for the other non-traditional varieties can be found on Page D-04 for those collectors who may be interested.

It is the author's opinion that the missing detail on this variety was at least partly caused by the clash itself and not just by subsequent die polishing to remove the clash. Clear evidence of the design elements from the Bison can be seen behind and on the Indian's neck in the form of the Bison's hump, as is evident in the closeup photo above. This would indicate that the die was rotated at the time of the clash as it's the Bison's head that is in direct opposition to this part of the obverse die on normally aligned dies. In fact, on both this and the 2HF+3HL variety the die is rotated significantly. It was also an unusually severe clash that certainly limited the life of this obverse die. Apparently, the die clashed still again, resulting in the lapping of the reverse die and with the end result that part of the Bison's lower right leg was removed. This must have further weakened the die and would explain the scarcity of this coin and the great rarity of the 2HF+3HL variety.

1913 V 1 ADO 2HF #01

B05-13P12HF-01 **NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

A significant portion of the back of the neck is missing in addition to an attenuated (weakened) feather. The attenuation of the feather and of the neck on this coin seems to be caused more from the actual die clash itself than any subsequent abrasion of the die-a very unusual situation with when compared with all other Buffalo nickel abraded die errors with the *possible* exception of a few of the NF varieties. Note the three die cracks, shown on the following page, from the Bison's head to the rim. The heavy damage (the actual clash) over most of the obverse-especially on and behind the neck-is the most severe of any coin in the series that has been seen by the author. Values for a few grades are based on actual sales; in those grades without an actual sale an estimate of value has been provided. Recently, values have declined as a fair number of this variety have been listed in auction venues such as EBAY and supply may have equaled and possibly exceeded demand.

NOTES

1913 V 1 ADO 2HF #01

B05-13P12HF-01 NOT LISTED

Pictured above is the normal reverse paired with the 2HF obverse. The second image shows the three die cracks common to both the normal, four legged reverse and the 3HL reverse. Note the rotated reverse die.

Pictured above are the obverses of the normal four legged reverse and the 3HL reverse. The die damage is the same on both coins.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 25	$ 40	$ 55	$ 85	$ 100	$ 150	$ 250	$ 500	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

KNOWN DATES OF NON TRADITIONAL ABRADED & CLASHED DIES

2 ½ FEATHER (2HF)

1913-1	D-1	S-1
1915		
1916	1916-D	
		1917-S
		1918-S
1919	1919-D	1919-S
1920	1920-D	
1921		1921-S
1923		1923-S
		1925-S
	1926-D	1926-S
	1927-D	1927-S
		1928-S
	1929-D	1929-S
		1930-S
	1937-D	

****

BROKEN NOSE (BNS)

1914	
	1917-S
1919	1919-S
1920	
1923	

****

DROOPING CHIN (DC)

1913 1	D 1	S 1
1913-2		S 2
1914		1914-S
		1915-S
1916		1916-S
	1917-D	1917-S
1918		1918-S
1919		1919-S
1920		1920-S
1921		1921-S
1923		
1924		1924-S
		1925-S
1926		
1927		1927-S
		1928-S
		1929-S
		1930-S
1934		
1935		1935-S
1936		1936-S
1937		1937-S

****

BROKEN BACK (BB)

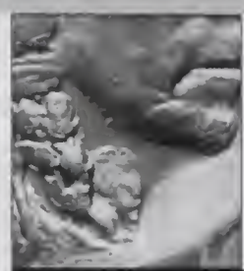
1913-1		S-1
1913-2	D-2	S-2
1914	1914-D	1914-S
		1915-S
1916		1916-S
1917		1917-S
		1918-S
1919		1919-S
1920	1920-D	1920-S
1921		
1923		
1924		
1925	1925-D	
1927		1927-S
		1929-S
		1930-S
		1931-S
		1935-S
		1936-S
	1937-D	1937-S

****

LONE RANGER (LR)

1913-1	D-1	S-1
1913-2	S-2	
1914		
1915	1915-D	
1916		1916-S
1917		
1918		
1919		
1920		
1921		
1923		
1924	1924-D	1924-S
1926		
1925		
1927		1927-S
1928	1928-D	
1929		1929-S
		1930-S
		1931-S
	1934-D	
1935	1935-D	
	1936-D	1936-S
		1937-S
	1938-D	

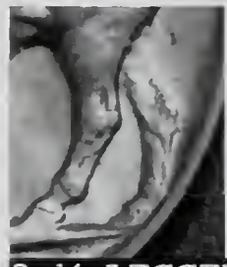
****



FLOATING JAW (FJ)

1913 VAR 2		
1917		
1919		
1923		
		1925-S
		1927-S
		1930-S

****



3 ½ LEGGED-REAR LEG (3HL-R)

1914	
	1937-D

****

MULTIPLE NON-TRADITIONAL ADE

1918	1918-S
1921	
	1925-S

****

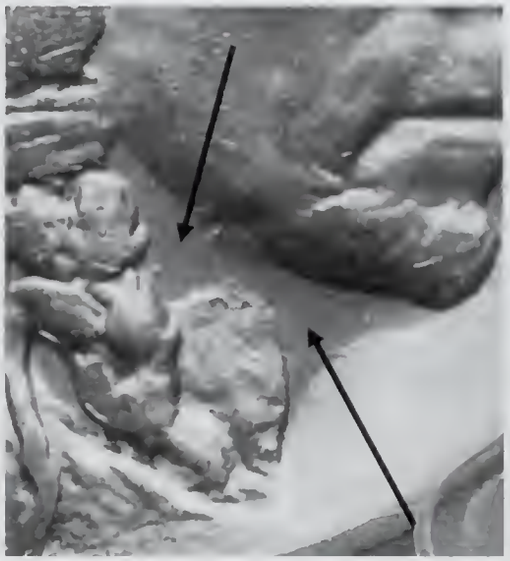
EYEBALL DIE CLASH

1915	
1919	
1921	
1923	
1924	
	1925-S
1926	
	1929-S

Several dates are known showing a combination of the types shown above and to the left/

More dates of most of these varieties are certain to exist. These will be listed as they are discovered or reported.

SECTION E THE FLOATING JAW (FJ) VARIETIES (10 TOT)



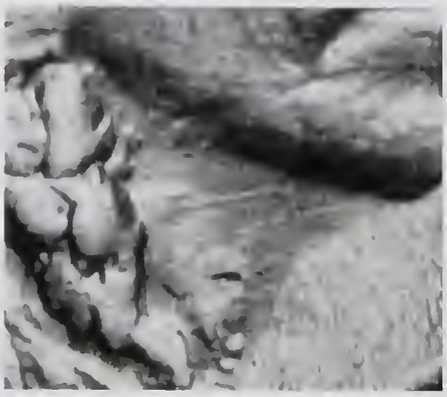
FJ #01	1913 VARIETY TWO	PAGE E-02
FJ #02	1913-S VARIETY TWO	PAGE E-02
FJ #03	1916-S	PAGE E-02
FJ #04	1917	PAGE E-03
FJ #05	1919	PAGE E-03
FJ #06	1923	PAGE E-03
FJ #07	1925-S	PAGE E-04
FJ #08	1927-S	PAGE E-04
FJ #09	1928-S	PAGE E-04
FJ #10	1930-S	PAGE E-04
FJ	NEW VARIETIES	PAGE E-07

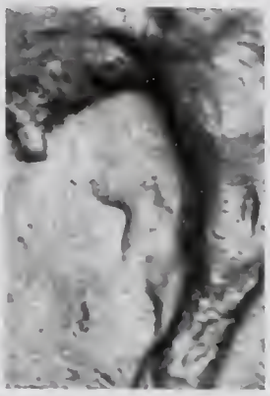
This recently discovered abraded die type shows the most extensive removal of detail the author has seen on a Buffalo nickel. As can be seen in the photo above, over half of the neck is missing on this 1917, probably due to an overzealous effort to remove the "E Pluribus Unum" clash so commonly seen on these coins. This has resulted in the appearance of a "floating" jaw. The criterion for this new variety, as established by the author, is a continuation of the field in front of the neck to the area below the jaw at the same depth as the field. Many dates will show extensive die polishing in this area with much of the front of the neck removed but, so far, only ten dates show an actual continuation of the field.
The 1913 Var 2 and the 1917 seem to be very rare-the author has conducted an extensive search for these two dates with only two of the 1913 and two of the 1917 (the one pictured) found. The 1916-S, 1919 and 1923 are also hard to find but both the 1925-S and 1930-S are a little more "findable." It's pretty certain that other dates showing this anomaly will be found-the author is on a constant lookout for them. Whether they eventually will gain popularity and bring a premium remains to be seen.

The 1927-S, above, shows very extensive attenuation at the front of the neck and below the jaw but does not qualify as a floating jaw variety as the neck is raised above the adjacent field.

1913 VAR 2 ADO FJ #01

B05-13P2FJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED





GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

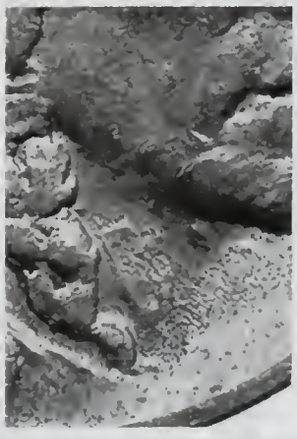
First reported by the author in March, 2015 about a week after the following 1917. Similar to the 1917, although the missing neck detail isn't quite as extensive as it is on that date. Significant die polish damage can be seen in places other than the neck as can be seen above. Strong die clashing is also seen. The author has seen two of this date so it seems is of considerable rarity. It was expected that other dates showing this error will eventually come to light and such is the case as ten different dates are currently known (as of 07-2016.)

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1913-S-2 ADO FJ #02

B05-13S2FJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED



GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First seen by the author in July, 2016. Rarity has not been established as of yet. As with most other abraded die varieties found on scarce dates, the added value will be minimal due to the fact that it is found on a key date.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1916-S ADO FJ #03

B05-16SFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Not yet established

OBSERVATIONS

Another date that, so far, is extremely rare. Unlike the previous, this date is a little more common and the additional value (if any) would be proportionally much greater. Time will tell if a demand for this visually striking abraded die variety develops but they must be publicized and several sales of all of these dates must occur before any pricing can be even guessed at.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1917 ADO FJ #04

B05-17PFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Not yet established

OBSERVATIONS

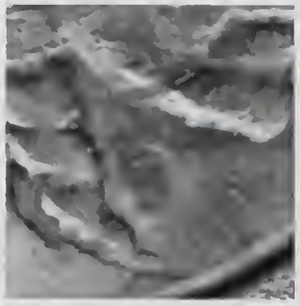
First reported by Chris Buck on 02-14-15 in a Heritage auction. The author bid on and won the lot and the coin is now part of his collection. At this point it seems to be quite rare-this is the only specimen currently known and no other such coin has been seen despite intensive searching on many internet venues including the Heritage Archives by the author. Time will tell if a demand for this visually striking abraded die variety develops but more must be discovered and publicized before that can happen.

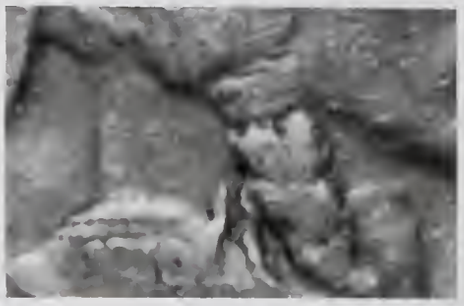
ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1919 ADO FJ #05

B05-19PFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED





GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

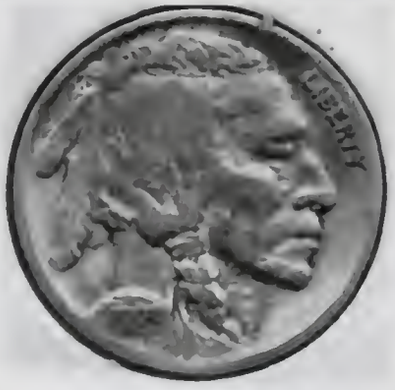
First seen by the author in May, 2015. This date seems to be a little more common than the previous two dates nor is it quite as visually impressive. Rarity has yet to be established. A second die, also missing the small feather, is also shown above.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1923 ADO FJ #06

B05-17PFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED



GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Not yet established

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by Chris Buck on 02-14-15 in a Heritage auction. The author bid on and won the lot and the coin is now part of his collection. At this point it seems to be quite rare-this is the only specimen currently known and no other such coin has been seen despite intensive searching on many internet venues including the Heritage Archives by the author. Time will tell if a demand for this visually striking abraded die variety develops but more must be discovered and publicized before that can happen.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1925-S ADO FJ #07

B05-25SFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This date also exists with the neck nearly missing but the abraded area is very slightly raised above the field. The example pictured has more of the neck present but the part that is missing is contiguous with the field. This date seems to be by far the most common for the type. One die, shown above, is a combination of a 2F as well as a FJ.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1927-S ADO FJ #08

B05-27SFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Not yet established

OBSERVATIONS

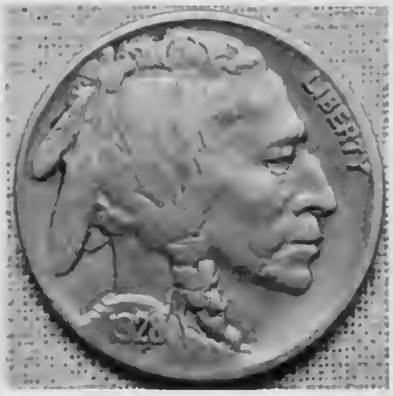
The 1927-S FJ is not too difficult to find. It resembles the 1930-S on the next page but there's more of the neck showing on this coin. The coin on the right, above, isn't technically an FJ coin, but it, too, is an interesting ADE, too, the neck being "detached" at the bottom of the neck.

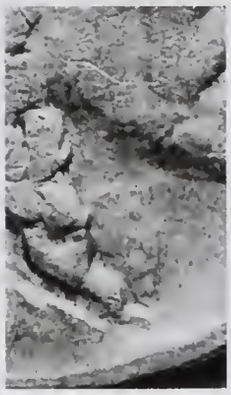
ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1928-S ADO FJ #09

B05-28SFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED





GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

A typical floating jaw variety that is difficult to find. A couple of similar dies exist but on those the neck is slightly raised above the field. The example pictured has more of the neck present but the part that is missing is contiguous with the field.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1930-S ADO FJ #10

B05-30SFJ-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Not yet established

OBSERVATIONS

The entire neck in front of the braid is essentially gone on this date. Furthermore, the missing area is at the same level as the field which makes it qualify as a floating jaw variety. This date is seen from time to time and has been noted previously for the missing neck, which is pretty dramatic. An XF sold on ebay for $111 in July, 2016.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$---	$---	$---	$---	$100	$---	$---	$---	$---

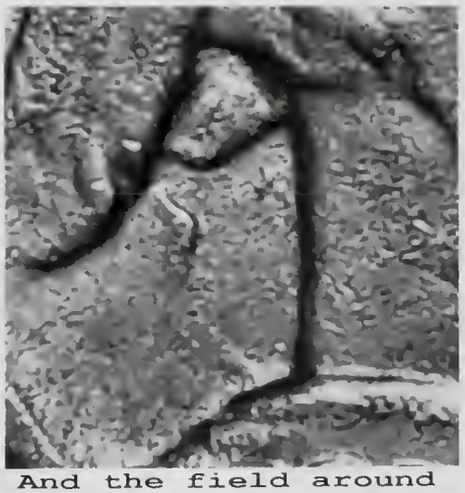
FJ VARS NEW LISTINGS

A FEW INTERESTING DIE CLASHES

The coin above-a 1925-S Buffalo nickel-yielded the following three clashes-

An "eyeball" clash

A "drooping chin" clash



And the field around Bison's head clash

Two types of the "Lone Ranger" mask effect. The first, on the left, is caused by a die clash of the field around where the Bison's rear leg joins his belly. This may be referred to a "Type One" mask. The second, on the right, appears to have been caused by erosion or damage to the die rather than a clash.

SECTION F THE MISSING DESIGNER'S INITIAL (NF) VARIETIES (20)

PLEASE NOTE-This section has been re-arranged and the varieties re-numbered starting with this (33rd) printing due to the large number of new dates that have recently been reported.

NF #01	1913-S VAR 1	PAGE F-03
NF #02	1914-D	PAGE F-03
NF #03	1916	PAGE F-04
NF #04	1917	PAGE F-04
NF #05	1917-S	PAGE F-05
NF #06	1918	PAGE F-05
NF #07	1918-S	PAGE F-06
NF #08	1919	PAGE F-06
NF #09	1920	PAGE F-07
NF #10	1921-S	PAGE F-07
NF #11	1923-S	PAGE F-08
NF #12	1924	PAGE F-08
NF #13	1925-S	PAGE F-09
NF #14	1926-S	PAGE F-09
NF #15	1930	PAGE F-10
NF #16	1930-S	PAGE F-10
NF #17	1935	PAGE F-11
NF #18	1935-D	PAGE F-11
NF #19	1936	PAGE F-12
NF #20	1937	PAGE F-12

These have not achieved the popularity of the two feather coins with one notable exception-the 1916. This date is the best known and most popular of the NF varieties and has been listed in the "Cherrypicker's Guide" and other references for some time. Most of the other dates are largely unknown to anyone other than the most dedicated collector of this ADE. **As with the 2F varieties, some collectors may want to collect only those coins that show absolutely no trace of the missing element-in this case, of course, the designer's initial.** Those referenced above are dates that are ***COMPLETELY LACKING*** the initial. The dates that show any trace of the initial, some of which were formerly listed along with the true NF dates are now listed by date and value only on page E-09.
Unlike all the other design elements of the Buffalo nickel, the designer's initial was in relief on the die (incused on the coins.) Some specialists believe that this ADE may have been caused by the actual clashing of the dies themselves rather than during an abrading process. Both situations may be the true answer. It's certain that a number of this error is yet to be reported. A few dates are found in combination with the two and 2 ½ feather varieties. These are listed in a separate section.

URS RARITY DESIGNATIONS ARE NOT USED FOR THIS VARIETY AS PRECISE RARITIES ARE MUCH TOO DIFFICULT TO ACCURATELY DETERMINE. A GENERAL RARITY RATING IS USED INSTEAD.

THE URS RARITY SCALE

Compiled by Q. David Bowers. A much more precise and useful rarity scale than the Sheldon Rarity Scale more commonly seen. The URS Rarity Scale is used throughout this book.

URS SCALE	AS DEFINED IN THIS BOOK
URS 00	UNKNOWN---------NONE REPORTED
URS 01	ONE KNOWN---------UNIQUE
URS 02	TWO KNOWN---------PROHIBITIVELY RARE
URS 03	3 OR 4 KNOWN---------EXTREMELY RARE
URS 04	5 TO 8 KNOWN---------EXTREMELY RARE
URS 05	9 TO 16 KNOWN---------VERY RARE
URS 06	17 TO 32 KNOWN---------VERY RARE
URS 07	33 TO 64 KNOWN---------RARE
URS 08	65 TO 125 KNOWN---------RARE
URS 09	126 TO 250 KNOWN---------VERY SCARCE
URS 10	251 TO 500 KNOWN---------SCARCE
URS 11	501 TO 1,000 KNOWN--RELATIVELY COMMON
URS 12	1,001 TO 2,000 KNOWN--RELATIVELY COMMON
URS 13	2,001 TO 4,000 KNOWN---------COMMON
URS 14	4,001 TO 8,000 KNOWN---------COMMON
URS 15	8,001 TO 16,000 KNOWN---------COMMON

ET CETERA

***** A NOTE CONCERNING RARITY *****

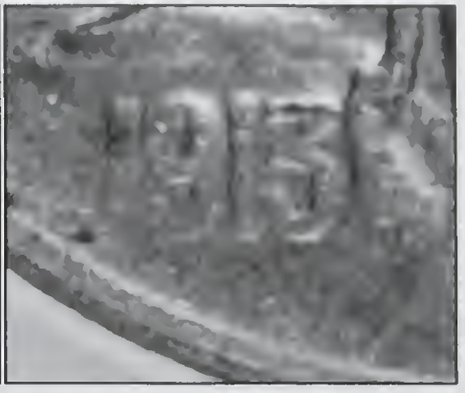
The evident rarity of many of the abraded die varieties can be explained by two main factors-the damage caused by one or repeated clashes, which may not show up immediately but may significantly affect the eventual life of the die, and the state of the die when the clash occurs. If the clash and subsequent lapping of the die occurs toward the end of the it's normal useful life, relatively few coins may have been struck from that particular die to begin with. These factors explain why some of the ADE varieties may be rarer than other die varieties such as doubled dies and RPMs.

For any questions concerning this book, including how to obtain additional copies, and to report new discoveries, contact the author at:

COINquest1961@gmail.com

1913-S VAR 1 ADO NF #01

B05-13S1NF-01 **FS#-05-1913S-401**



GENERAL RARITY

Scarce

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is one of the better known of the NF varieties. It is somewhat scarce, but it is still one of the more "findable" for this type of error, and is often available in high grade. The first image above is of a die where the nearly missing initial is probably the result of the weak peripheral strike often seen on this date rather than a true ADE; the specimen pictured on the right, however, seems to have almost certainly been caused by die abrasion.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 25	$ 35	$ 50	$ 75	$100	$135	$175	$325	$---

1914-D ADO NF #02

B05-14DNF-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by Lewis Fletcher in April, 2016. As with most other varieties found on key and semi-key dates, the variety itself doesn't add significantly to the value of the coin. reported variety of any kind for this date and Mint. As with most key date coins, the variety doesn't significantly add to the value of the coin as a whole-possibly +10% or so in this case.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 35	$ 55	$125	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1916 ADO NF #03

B05-16PNF-01 FS#-05-1916P-401

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is the only missing designer's initial variety that currently has a full listing in the "Cherrypicker's Guide", therefore it is by far the best known of this variety. Several other dates have been assigned FS numbers, so it's possible they may be listed in future editions of the CPG along with this one. The 1916 is one of the most frequently encountered for the type, with a number of Mint state examples known. Photo courtesy of John Hough. PCGS slabbed coins will bring substantially more (2+ times) than the values listed, which are for raw coins.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 5	$ 10	$ 20	$ 50	$100	$150	$275	$400	$1250

1917 ADO NF #04

B05-17PNF-01 FS#-05-1917P-402

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

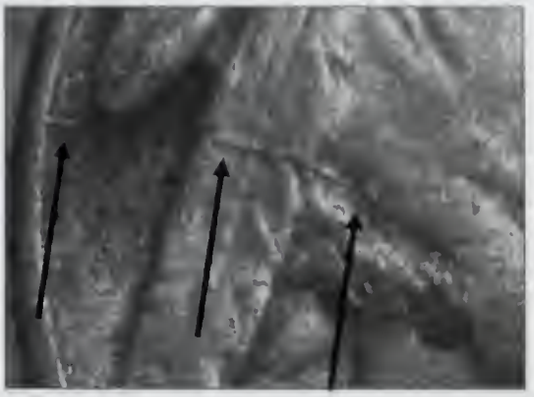
Rare-at least as tough as the two feather variety. Sales records are plentiful enough to provide "ball park" estimates of value. Note the heavy die polish lines in front of and behind the neck and also where the desiger's initial was. The very bottom of the neck is missing as well. Coin courtesy of John Hough.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 10	$ 15	$ 20	$ 40	$ 65	$150	$200	$---	$---

1917-S ADO NF #05

B05-17SNF-01 FS#-05-1917S-402



GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

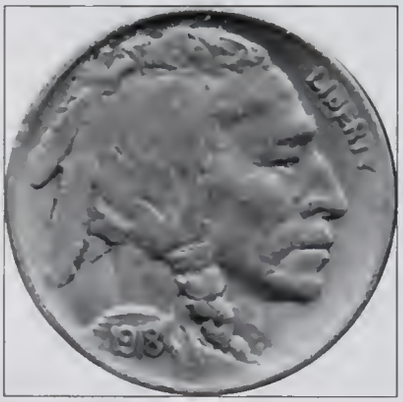
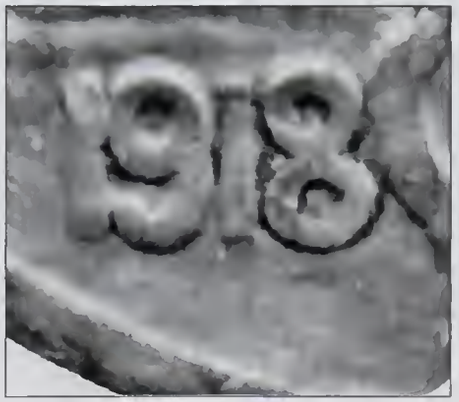
A This is a rare and little known NF variety. A good explanation for it's rarity could be the presentce of the extensive die crack from the braid to the rim as pictured above, which probably significantly limited the life of the die. In spite of it's rarity, several sales records do exist.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 50	$ 75	$125	$185	$300	$450	$---	$---	$---

1918 ADO NF #06

B05-18PNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is one of the better known of the NF varieties. It is somewhat scarce, but it is still one of the more "findable" for this type of error, and is sometimes available in high grade.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 10	$ 15	$ 20	$ 30	$ 65	$100	$150	$---	$---

1918-S ADO NF #07

B05-18SNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Very rare

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by Lewis Fletcher in April, 2011. It seems to be quite rare and is not widely known even amongst specialists of this type of ADE. Values listed are based on the sale of a VG-Fine example that sold at auction for $100 in 2011. Photos courtesy of Heritage Galleries.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 35	$ 75	$125	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1919 ADO NF #08

B05-19PNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Previously listed in older copies of this book and inadvertently deleted. It is now re-listed here. On this die the designer's initial is completely missing. Thanks to Lewis Fletcher for pointing this error out.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 10	$ 15	$ 20	$ 40	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1920 ADO NF #09

B05-20NF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Reported by Rich Uhrich in August, 2016. Images courtesy of Rich as well. No trace of the initial can be seen. At least one other die exists that does show a small portion of the initial.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 15	$ 20	$ 25	$ 40	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1921-S ADO NF #10

B05-21SNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Reported by John Hough. Rarity has not been determined, but, at this point, it seems to be of considerable rarity. A small indentation is visible below the date, but this does NOT appear to be a remnant of the designer's initial as the initial itself appears to be totally effaced. It may be a small lamination.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 75	$125	$200	$---	$ ---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1935-D ADO NF #11

B05-35DNF-01 **FS#-05-1935D-402**

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is the best known of the late date NF varieties and can be found with modest effort. Adequate sales records exist in the circulated grades. A few Mint state pieces are known. The initial is completely absent on this date. A PCGS MS64 unattributed example of this coin sold for $298 on ebay in February, 2016.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 5	$ 10	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$ 75	$125	$175	$---

1937 ADO NF #12

B05-37PNF-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

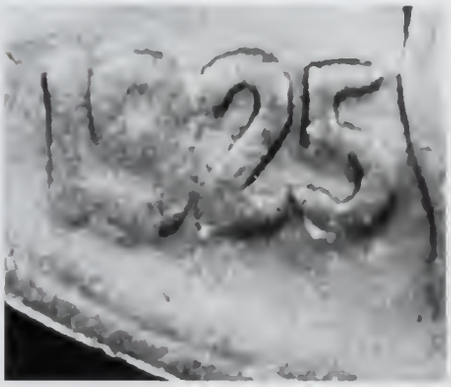
First reported to the author in September, 2010, so rarity has yet to be determined but it may turn out to be quite scarce. A VG specimen sold on ebay in August, 2011 for $14.51; the estimated values listed below have been derived form that single sale.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 8	$ 15	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$---	$---	$---	$---

1925-S ADO NF #13

B05-25SNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED



GENERAL RARITY

Scarce

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

One Another missing initial variety that is not well known. Many times rarer than the 1925-S two feather ADE. Photo courtesy of John Hough.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$165	$325	$450	$650	$---	$---

1926-S ADO NF #14

B05-26SNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This NF is on a key date coin and is of recent discovery. Thus far this is the only reported variety of any kind for this date and Mint. As with most key date coins, the variety premium goes down as the grade goes up.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 35	$ 55	$125	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1930 ADO NF #15

B05-30PNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Discovered by Duane Hoff. First reported by John Hough, who also provided the images. The initial is completely missing. It would not be a surprise if this coin turns out to be a very rare variety.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 15	$ 20	$ 25	$ 40	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1930-S ADO NF #16

B05-30sNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Another new missing initial variety. Certainly there will be more of this ADE discovered in the future. This one could turn out to be of considerable rarity.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 15	$ 20	$ 25	$ 40	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1935 ADO NF #17

B05-35PNF-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

It appears to be of considerable rarity. The initial is completely effaced. Premiums should be notably higher than for a normal die but are rough estimates as only a few sales have been recorded.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 5	$ 10	$ 50	$ 85	$---	$---	$---	$---	$---

1935-D ADO NF #18

B05-35DNF-01 **FS#-05-1935D-402**

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is the best known of the late date NF varieties and can be found with modest effort. Adequate sales records exist in the circulated grades. A few Mint state pieces are known. The initial is completely absent on this date. A PCGS MS64 unattributed example of this coin sold for $298 on ebay in February, 2016.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 5	$ 10	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$ 75	$125	$175	$---

1936 ADO NF #19

B05-36PNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

A little known late date for the variety. It seems to be very rare but, surprisingly, a number of sales for this coin have been recorded. A Mint State specimen sold for $100 on ebay in January, 2009.

ESTIMATED VALUES >>

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 7	$ 10	$ 15	$ 30	$ 65	$100	$150	$---	$---

1937 ADO NF #20

B05-37PNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

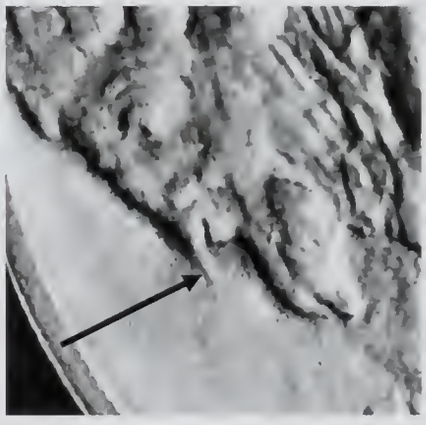
First reported to the author in September, 2010, so rarity has yet to be determined but it may turn out to be quite scarce. A VG specimen sold on ebay in August, 2011 for $14.51; the estimated values listed below have been derived form that single sale.

ESTIMATED VALUE

GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS65
$ 8	$ 15	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50	$---	$---	$---	$---

1913-S V 1 ADO 2FNF #01

B05-13S12FNF-01 FS#-05-1913S-401



GENERAL RARITY

Rare-estimated **URS 08** 65 to 125 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This remains a scarce variety even though more have been reported recently. Probably fewer than 100 specimens are currently known. The specimen shown above is one of the best examples of the variety the author has seen, showing virtually NO trace of either the feather or the initial. Due to its rarity, few sales have been recorded, so the values listed are just a rough estimate. Note the curious die clash seen at the Bison's nose. This clash is a remnant of the field around the Indian's topmost feather on the obverse. The obverse also shows very extensive clashing.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ 225	$ 350	$ 550	$ 700	$ 925	$1150	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	600	750	1000	1350	3000	5000

1916 ADO 2FNF #02

B05-16P2FNF-01 FS#-05-1916P-403

IMAGE COURTESY OF JOHN PIRRO

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This is the most common date for this type of ADE. High grade coins-even Mint State pieces-can be found with some persistence. Note that there is a small depression where the initial was. Sales records have been recorded for a number of coins, so values should be fairly well established.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 10	$ 25	$ 35	$ 50	$ 100	$ 165	$ 225	$ 350	$ 650	$ 925
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1917-S ADO 2FNF #03

B05-17S2FNF-01 FS#-05-??????????

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

It is actually a little more common than the two feather WITH the designer's initial, but, like that variety (and most early Mint marked ADE Buffalos after 1914) it is quite rare in any grade better than Fine. It's uncertain whether the FS number applies to this coin or to the two feather only coin-the photo in the Cherrypicker's Guide is of this variety while the text refers to the two feather *with* designer's initial variety. The coin pictured, a PCGS XF40 but attributed as a 2F only sold in a Heritage auction in January, 2015 for $329.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 30	$ 50	$ 90	$ 225	$ 350	$ 500	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3000	---

1918 ADO 2FNF #04

B05-18P2FNF-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Newly reported by Lewis Fletcher in September, 2014. Like many other dates of this variety this one also shows a tiny remnant of the feather. Rarity is probably considerable since it has not been previously reported.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 25	$ 40	$ 65	$ 100	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1918-S ADO 2FNF #05

B05-18S2FNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

At this point, the 1918-S 2FNF seems to be an extremely rare variety. A very small trace of both the feather and the initial remain, but this coin can properly be classified as a legitimate 2FNF variety. Because of its greater rarity, values over the 2F only variety should be substantial, especially in the lower grades.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 50	$ 80	$ 100	$ 300	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1919 ADO 2FNF #06

B05-19P2FNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

This coin seems to be the third most commonly seen, after the 1916 and the 1917-S, though by no means can it be called "common." Several sales records do exist, but the high values in the upper grade levels may have to be adjusted downward somewhat as more are found. A trace of both the small feather and the very top of the designer's initial can still be seen on this variety. Photo courtesy of John Hough.

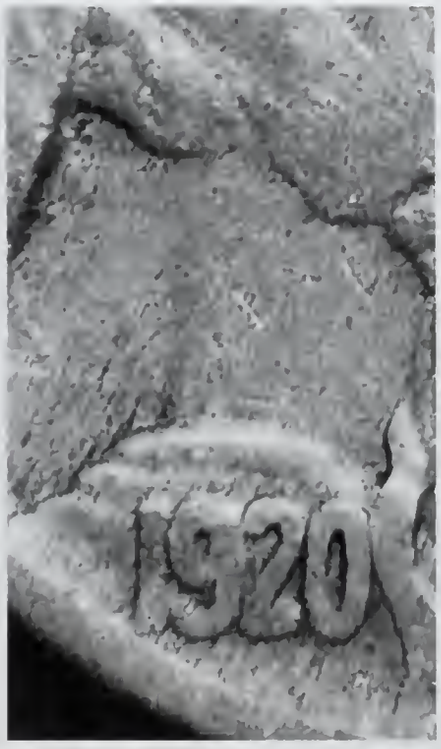
NOTES

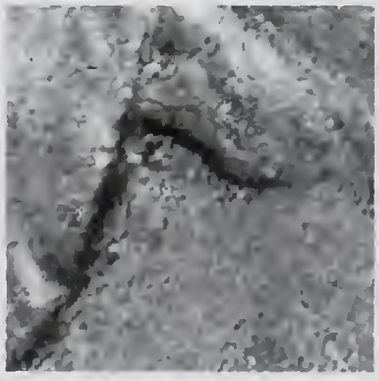
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 15	$ 25	$ 50	$ 85	$ 175	$ 225	$ 300	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1920 ADO 2FNF #07

B05-20P2FNF-01 FS#-NOT LISTED





GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by Lewis Fletcher in August, 2014. This is the first new date for this variety in quite some time. Part of the back of the neck is missing as well as the feather and initial even though a tiny insignificant portion of the feather still persists. Sales values will be listed as soon as they are available. This should be considered an important new listing. An example in VF condition sold for $115 in August 2014.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 35	$ 50	$ 80	$ 115	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1921-S ADO 2FNF #08

B05-21S2FNF-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN HOUGH

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet established

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

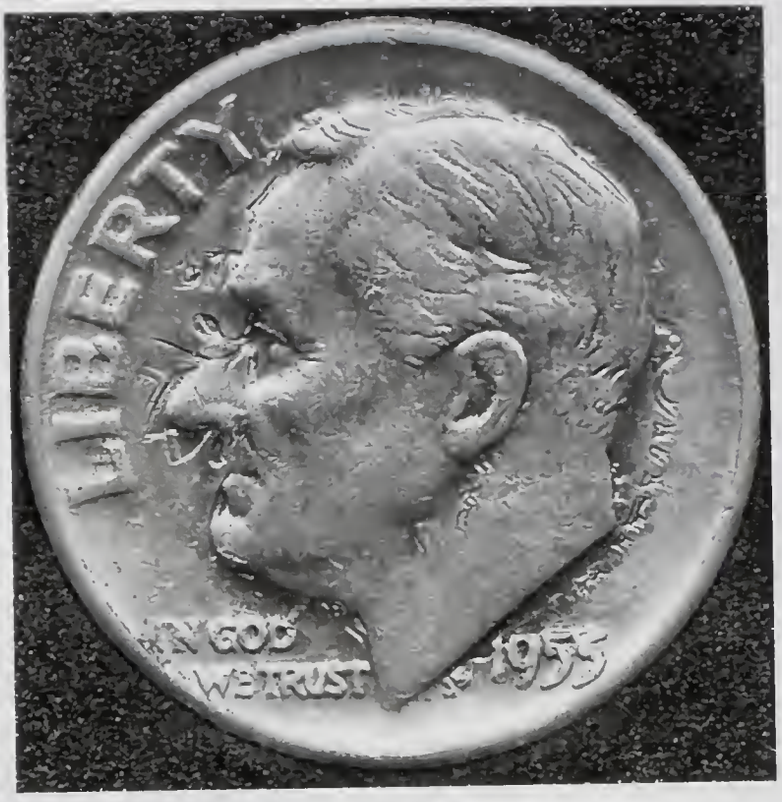
A recently reported variety, rarity and accurate values have yet to be determined though it should bring a premium considerably greater than its two feather counterpart. At present, it appears to be very rare, many times more so than the 2F only coin. Image courtesy of John Hough. A small, distorted remnant of the initial can still be seen.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

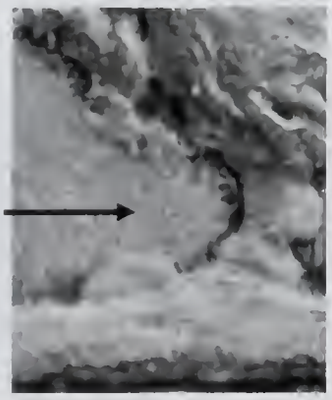
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 125	$ 200	$ 325	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

HEAVILY CLASHED PROOF LINCOLN CENT AND BUSINESS STRIKE ROOSEVELT DIME

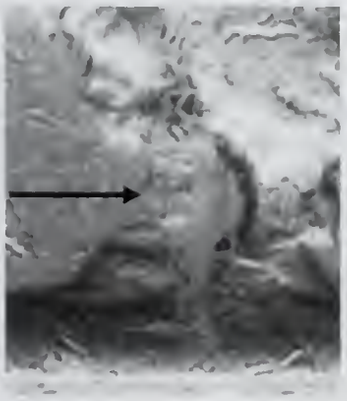


Buffalo nickels aren't the only coin that can show a clash in the recesses of the die. Shown above on the left is an outstanding example of a clashed *PROOF* 1989-S Lincoln cent. The space between the pillars in the Lincoln Memorial Building can be seen clearly not only in the field (which is typical for most clashes) but on Lincoln's neck and head, too. Flaws of any kind on a proof coin are rare and a clash this strong is virtually unheard of. On the right and below is a very strong and equally outstanding clashed die is seen on a 1955-D Roosevelt dime, much of which is also in a recessed part of the die. Strong die clashes such as these two coins are visually dramatic and desirable to some collectors. Compare these two clashed die coins with a clashed die Buffalo nickel showing clashing on the Indian's neck as seen below. Image of the Roosevelt dime is from the author's personal collection. This dime is the strongest clashed die the author has ever seen.

SECTION H THE 3 (3L) AND 3 ½ LEG (3HL) VARIETIES (8 TOT)



1937-D 3 LEGGED VARIETY



1936-D 3 ½ LEGGED VARIETY

3HL	#01	1913-1	PG	H-02	&	H-03	3HL	#04	1926-D	PG	H-10 & H-11
3L	#00*	1916	PG	H-04	&	H-05	3HL	#05	1927-D	PG	H-12 & H-13
3HL	#02	1916-D	PG	H-06	&	H-07	3HL	#06	1936-D	PG	H-14 & H-15
3HL	#03	1917-D	PG	H-08	&	H-09	3L	#07	1937-D	PG	H-16 & H-17
							3HL	#08	1938-D	PG	H-18 & H-19

The 3 and 3 ½ legged varieties are the most "novel" and are, undisputedly, the most popular and best known of all the ADE coins in the Buffalo nickel series. It can be said that the 1937-D variety is the only abraded die variety of any significance to many collectors of "regular" US coinage. By far the best known (and, by far the most common) of all the "attenuated (diminished) leg" coins is the 1937-D 3 legged variety. This is the only one of this variety that has a *completely* effaced lower right foreleg, though some still show a faint "wisp" of the leg. It is often stated that this coin is "rare," but it is always readily available in any grade desired from VG through MS64, though at a very heavy premium. Thousands exist, but demand is, and always has been very high. Still fairly well known, but of MUCH greater rarity (and also MUCH lower demand) is the 1936-D 3 ½ legged coin, which, in the more advanced die stages can be nearly as impressive as the 1937-D. The other dates showing this ADE are less well known, and show a considerably lower premium than do the 1936 and 1937 coins. By far the rarest of these is the 1913 Var 1 (this is listed under the 2F3L varieties,) of which fewer than 25 or so are currently known. The rest, except for the 1916-D are generally available in the lower grade levels, but all are very hard to find VF or better. The 1926-D occurs in two distinct die stages-one with an intact small feather (by a significant margin the rarest) and a more advanced die stage with a 2HF. **The latest of the 3 legged coins to be discovered is the 1916, first seen by the author in June, 2008. Even though it's likely that this is either a filled die or a strike-through and not a true abraded die variety it is weak enough that it can be legitimately called, in the author's opinion, a true 3 legged variety and not a 3 ½ legged variety.** Though overzealously abraded dies (not "filled dies" as once thought) is a well accepted cause for most, if not all of the ADE in the series (hence, the classification,) there is still some conjecture as to the underlying *cause* for the lapping of the dies in the first place. The clashed die scenario, with the attendant die polishing to remove the clash marks is the currently accepted (and almost certainly the correct) theory. It was hypothesized in one of the 1964 issues of the "Whitman Numismatic Journal" that the cause for the attenuation of the leg on the 1937-D 3 legged coin was to remove rust from the die since there is no obvious clash marks evident on this particular variety. In spite of the lack of clash marks, the author feels that this theory is almost certainly wrong. The popularity of these ADE varieties continues to grow as they become better known. In particular, higher grade examples of the 3HL coins have attained very impressive prices. It seems that the abraded leg varieties were largely a Denver Mint problem, but the 1913 Philly Mint coin proves it was not restricted to just the Denver Mint. A 1928-S has been reported, but no verification (photos) has been provided by the "discoverer" after repeated requests so the attribution of this date is not to be taken seriously until some evidence is provided. A 1920-S 3HL was also reported by Norm Talbert and pictured in the book on Buffalo nickels by David Lange, but the author has never seen a good photo or an example of the coin in spite of intensive searching so it is not listed here.

1913 VAR 1 ADR 3HL #01

B05-13P13HL-01 FS#-05-1913P-901

DIE STAGE "A" OBV

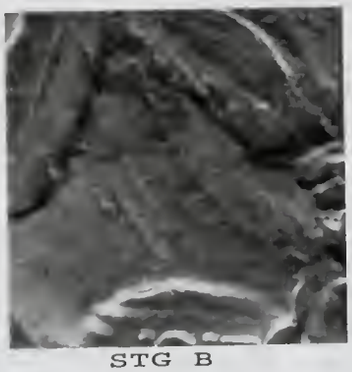
DIE STAGE "B" OBV

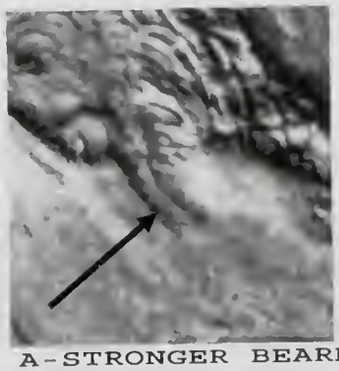
DIE STAGE "A" REV

DIE STAGE "B" REV

Many die clashes can be seen above the bison's back and in the legend and motto

STG A


STG B

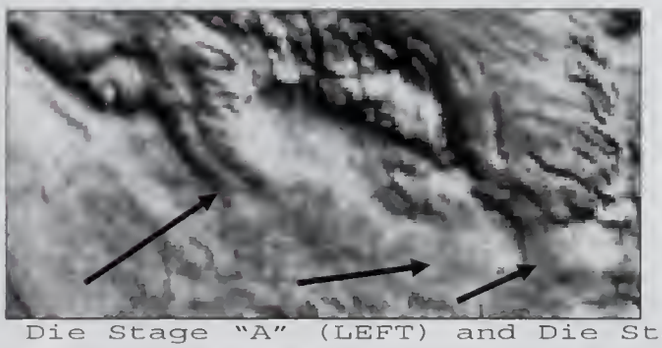

STG A-STRONGER BEARD

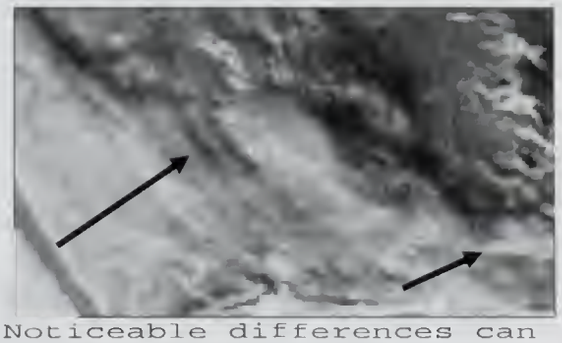
STG B-WEAK BEARD

Currently, this is *one* of the rarest of all the significant die variety Buffalo nickels, which includes doubled dies as well as abraded dies. This die may have suffered heavy damage and probably didn't last very long. It's likely that fewer than 25 coins in all grades are known. It is thought that there are 5 Mint state coins, one of which (an NGC MS65-the finest known) sold for an astounding $47,500 at the 2004 ANA show in Pittsburgh by Heritage. Previous to that sale, at the January, 2004 FUN auction an MS64 sold for $20,500. This same coin (the Stage A coin pictured) sold for $10,350 in the Heritage Central States auction in April, 2009. Values for circulated coins are best estimates, as transactions of these are very infrequent, but a Fine 15 reportedly sold for over $3,000 in 2006. Conversely, in August of 2007, a Fine 15 sold for $1,000, ***so values are still very speculative for this variety. Values for slabbed and attributed coins can be much higher than for "raw" coins.*** The dies, both obv and rev, (on the obverse perhaps more so than any other date in the series) show extensive clashing and die damage in addition to the attenuated feather and leg. The remnants of the die clash are still quite visible, on the obverse, on and behind the Indian's neck but they are also easily seen on the reverse above the Bison's back. Most of these are also seen on the normal four legged coins from this die.

1913 VAR 1 ADR 3HL #01

B05-13P13HL-01 FS#-05-1913P-901





Die Stage "A" (LEFT) and Die Stage "B" (RIGHT)-Noticeable differences can be seen in the beard, hooves, and ankle in the photos above.

GENERAL RARITY

Very rare-estimated **URS 06** 17 to 32 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Very high

OBSERVATIONS

Note the significant reverse die rotation seen on this variety. See the notes on the three die cracks from the Bison's head to the rim common to all known examples of the 2HF variety and also to all known examples of both die stages to the 3HL coins under the 1913 Variety One 2HF listing. A newly reported (as of Oct 2006) die stage exists of this variety. Many of the details on both the obverse and reverse have been further weakened, possibly by an additional die polishing, as detailed by the photos above and on the previous page. The details on the front and back of the Indian's neck differ slightly, as does the area under the chin where the "Drooping Chin" variety occurs. The hoof on the front left leg is slightly "detached" on the Stage B coin, and the beard is noticeably thinner and weaker on the Stage B. The already weakened leg and hoof is very slightly weaker on the Stage B, but not to an extent that it would be of any significance. The values for the two different die stages are the same, though Stage B seems to be rarer of the two. The true relative rarity of these two die stages has yet to be determined. The author has seen three of the former and two of the latter.

NOTES

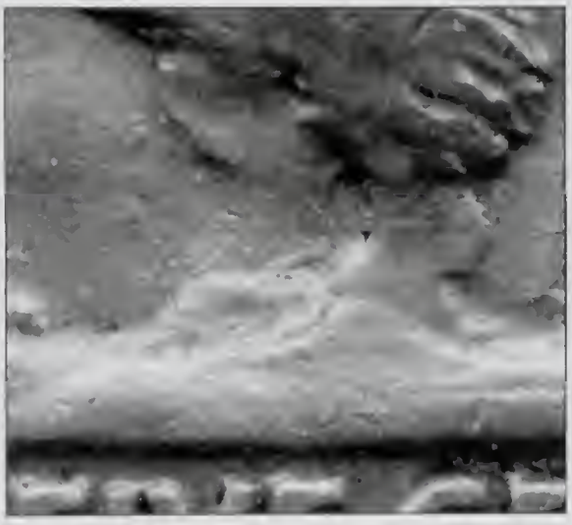
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 200	$ 400	$ 650	$ 900	$1250	$1750	$2650	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	2750	4500	7500	12500	47500

1916 FILLED DIE 3L #00

B05-16P3L-00 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

A macro view of the obverse and reverse of the variety. The reverse shows clear signs of a heavy clash but the coin is likely the result of a filled die.



A closeup view of the missing leg.

GENERAL RARITY

Currently unique-estimated **URS 01** One currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by the author in June, 2008. The general consensus is that this is probably a filled die or possibly even a strike-through and not a legitimate abraded die variety. Even so, if more than one specimen should be found (and, if it's from a filled die, several more may exist) it would be a collectible variety and should be in high demand. It is weaker than any of the 3HL varieties and is much closer to the 1937-D 3L as far as the attenuation of the leg is concerned and, in the opinion of the author, can be considered as a true 3L instead of a 3HL coin. These factors may enhance demand of this variety considerably, so it is listed here.

1916 FILLED DIE 3L #00

B05-16P3L-00 FS#-NOT LISTED

Another closeup of the missing leg.

Values are very difficult to ascertain for this coin at the present time. Hopefully, other specimens will be discovered, which would make this coin more collectable and would also make more accurate values possible. Values would likely be significantly enhanced should a number of these turn up and, especially, should it be determined to be an abraded die variety (unfortunately, highly unlikely) instead of a filled die. However, until and unless it is found to be a legitimate ADE it should not be considered to be a necessary component for a complete set of 3HL varieties.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	*$2500?*	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1916-D ADR 3HL #02

B05-16D3HL-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

Note the extensive die damage seen on both the obv and rev of this variety.

A closeup of the attenuated leg. The coin pictured is also missing the designer's initial. All images courtesy of John Pirro.

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

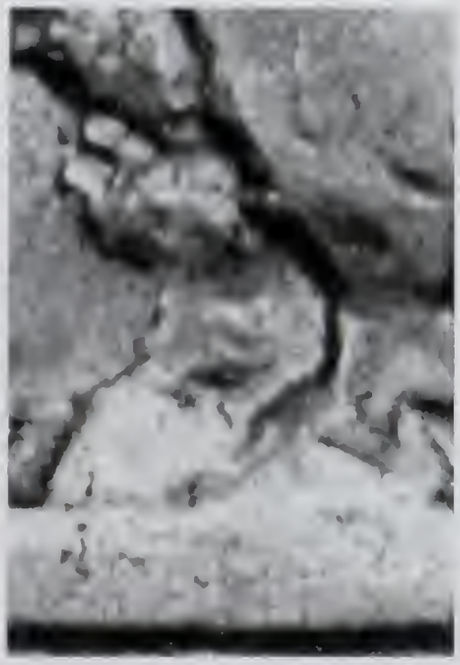
Moderate

OBSERVATIONS

Note the extensive die damage present on both the obverse and the reverse on the specimen pictured. Coins exist with much of this damage present but with a normal strength leg, so this die was apparently polished a number of times with the subsequent episodes of polishing removing more and more of the foreleg.

1916-D ADR 3HL #02

B05-16D3HL-01 FS#-NOT LISTED



ABOVE LEFT-There is a noticeable difference between a coin with a "normal" leg (right) and the 3HL variety (left) as can be seen in the photos immediately above. **ABOVE RIGHT**-The variety slabbed and attributed by SEGS.

This is the least effaced of the currently known 3 ½ legged varieties, and it is not a widely recognized 3HL. Only one slabbing company-SEGS-to the best of the author's knowledge-will attribute it on the slab. Because of this the value is lower for this date than it would otherwise be. The weakness of the leg can vary considerably from coin to coin.

This variety is of fairly recent discovery, first reported in 2004 and subsequently encapsulated and attributed by SEGS. Rarity and values are yet to be accurately determined as few actual sales have occurred. The specimen pictured is also missing the designer's initial but this was probably caused by severe die erosion and/or damage and not by an abraded die so it should not be considered a separate variety. A second die with a slightly stronger leg and less die erosion has been reported but the die pictured is the collectable die. A private sale of a VF specimen of this variety for $695 occurred in November, 2010, and a SEGS slabbed MS63 coin brought $1800 in May, 2014. Values in the mid and upper grade range have been adjusted upward as a consequence of these transactions.

A private sale of a VF specimen of this variety for $695 occurred in November, 2010, and a SEGS slabbed MS63 coin brought $1800 in May, 2014. Values in the mid and upper grade range have been adjusted upward as a consequence of these transactions. As of September, 2015 PCGS has begun to slab and attribute this variety.

NOTES

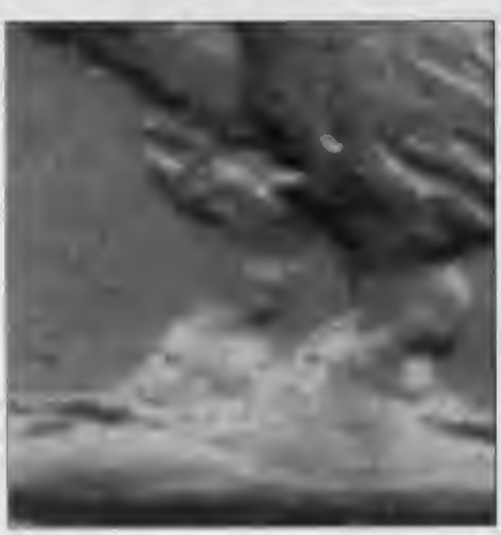
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 45	$ 65	$ 125	$ 250	$ 425	$1000	$1350	$1800	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	450	700	2000	---	---	---	---

1917-D ADR 3HL #03

B05-17D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1917D-901**

A mint state (MS63) example-one of the finest known of the variety courtesy of Rick McKechnie. Note the severe die damage at the hip and rear legs.



A closeup of the coin above

A lower grade (VG08) coin with a very weak leg

One of the finest of this variety known

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

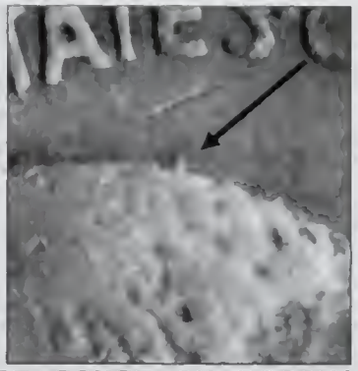
COLLECTOR INTEREST

High

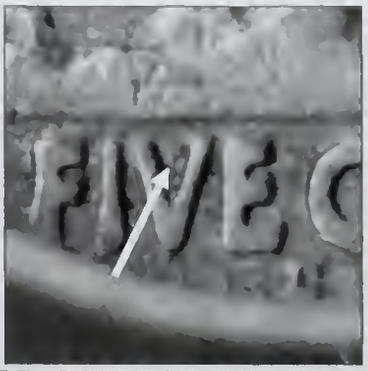
1917-D ADR 3HL #03

B05-17D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1917D-901**

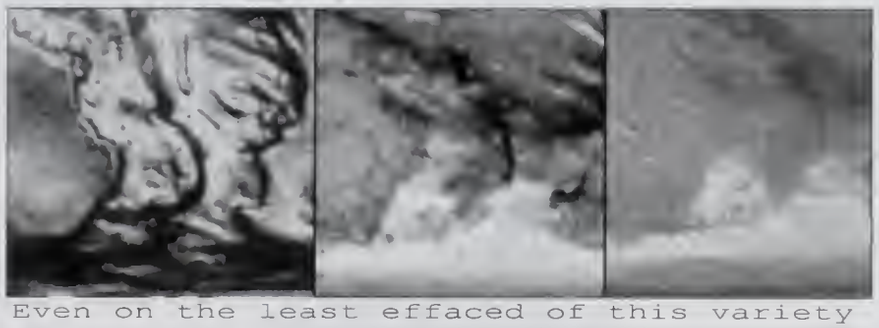
DIE CRACK-RIM TO TAIL



DIE GOUGE ON BISON'S BACK BELOW "E" OF STATES



DIE SCRATCH IN CENTER CENTER OF "V" OF FIVE



Even on the least effaced of this variety (center) the attenuation is evident when compared to a normal coin (left.) A very late die state example (RIGHT.)

A "proto" 3HL showing die erosion on the hip & legs.

OBSERVATIONS

This is the most frequently encountered of the 3 ½ legged varieties-only scarce in the lower grades-but rare any better than Fine. Only one reverse die is involved, as all have common die markers, but the weakness of the "missing" leg ranges from a nearly normal leg to nearly a true three legged coin. They don't come too much weaker than the one pictured (the third coin above-note the weakness of the hoof as well as the leg) but many have even more of the leg showing than the one on the second coin shown. *These last should bring little or no premium.* As with the previous 1916-D 3HL, this coin exists with all the die markers and die damage common to all of this variety, but with a full, intact leg-the so called "pre" or "proto" 3 ½ legged variety. Die damage, other than the missing leg, is significant-the rear legs and hip show a "moth eaten" appearance, somewhat like the 1937-D 3 legged coin. Three excellent die markers show on all specimens seen-see the images above. A PCGS MS63 specimen sold in an online auction for $2,600 in January, 2009 and another, during the same month and year and also PCGS slabbed in the same grade sold for $2,500 in a private sale. Note the distinctive Mint mark location in the photos above-this is diagnostic for the variety.

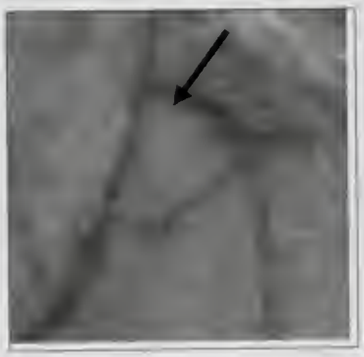
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

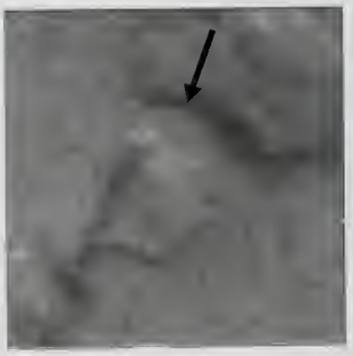
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 40	$ 65	$ 125	$ 200	$ 375	$ 850	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	85	135	175	275	450	1000	6500	9000	13500	---

1926-D ADR 3HL #04

B05-26D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1926D-901**



STG "A" OBV-FEATHER INTACT



STG "B" DETACHED FEATHER

GENERAL RARITY

Very scarce-estimated **URS 09** 126 to 250 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

High

OBSERVATIONS

The strength of the effaced leg varies considerably, but usually not to the degree found on the 1917-D. Nearly all have a partial small feather on the obverse. Those that show an intact feather are properly known as "Stage A" and those that have a partial feather are classified as "Stage B." There is no difference in value between the two. A very few will show a completely intact small feather-these may be an earlier die state of the coin or it could be a different obverse die altogether. Next to the 1917-D, this is the most frequently encountered of the 3 ½ legged varieties, though it is very difficult in any grade above Fine. A few Mint State grade coins are known to exist. Like the previous 3HL varieties, this coin probably exists as an identifiable "Proto 3HL." The Mint mark style and placement is distinct. The weakness of the attenuated leg will vary from coin to coin depending on the die state. Any that are much stronger than the examples shown may not be attributed as a 3HL and will bring little premium even though there is a noticeable difference between this and a "normal" coin when both are viewed side by side. First two images above courtesy of Heritage.

1926-D ADR 3HL #04

B05-26D3HL-01 FS#-05-1926D-901

WEAK DESIGNER'S INITIAL

DIE CLASH IN MOTTO

With the exception of the 1913 Var 1 and the 1936-D this variation in weakness and premium applies to all of the 3HL varieties to one degree or another, depending on the particular date. The coin shown on the previous page is about as weak as the 1926-D 3HL comes. Later die stages will also show a very weak designer's initial as is shown above. Unlike most other coins, regular or variety (and especially applicable to doubled dies), all the 3HL varieties become more desirable as the die state *advances*-the later the die state the weaker the attenuated leg becomes. The coin pictured on the previous page is the latest die state of this variety the author has seen. As of March, 2011 this variety is now recognized and attributed by PCGS which should enhance its value considerably. Several good examples of this can be seen by the following recorded sales: a PCGS slabbed XF40 example that sold for $1,880 in June of 2011; the private sale of another PCGS slabbed XF40 at $1,400 in November, 2011; and also in November, 2011 the sale of a PCGS slabbed and attributed Fine 12 that sold for $375. These values are more in line with the 1917-D and, especially, the 1927-D 3HL-this is as it should be since it is of equal significance and rarity to those dates-it is, in fact, much scarcer than the 1917-D, particularly in any grade above Fine. Thanks to Lewis Fletcher for providing information on these transactions. There are currently two Mint State examples listed in the PCGS population report (as of Sept, 2011)-an MS64 and, amazingly, *an MS66!* Substantial value increases have occurred for the PCGS slabbed coins listed below based on the very high 2012 FUN action results for VG08 example that sold for $632.50. This high sale value is likely caused because the variety is a new PCGS attributed 3HL. In Jan, 2015 the PCGS MS66 coin sold for $9400, about twice what a normal MS66 is listed for.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

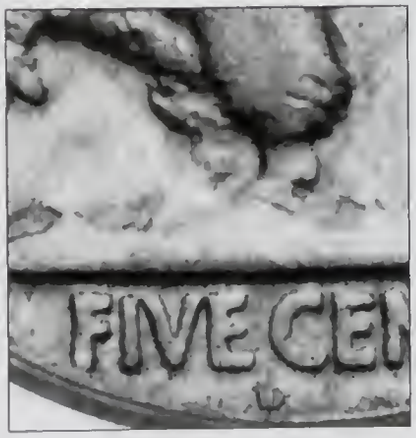
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 40	$ 65	$ 115	$ 175	$ 400	$ 850	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	90	140	225	425	1000	1350	---	---	---	6750

1927-D ADR 3HL #05

B05-27D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1927D-901**

The best specimens of this variety, like the late die state coin above can almost be called "3 legged."

A later die state
OF DIE #1



A very early die state
OF DIE #1
Note the stronger leg
and clear mint mark.
This is a borderline
3HL-many would consider
it to be a normal four
legged coin-a "proto" 3HL.

"Die #2"

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

High

1927-D ADR 3HL #05

B05-27D3HL-01 FS#-05-1927D-901

A high grade example of the 1927-D 3HL.

A close-up of the attenuated leg. This is an earlier die state of the variety.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES

OBSERVATIONS

The weakness of the missing leg varies to a large degree-the weakest of these can very nearly be considered a true 3 legged variety as the leg seems to be totally absent at first glance. The 1927-D is fourth in scarcity for this type, after the 1913 Var. One, 1916-D, and 1936-D. The entire reverse die is affected, with the rim beginning to merge with "USA" and the Mint mark even on higher grade specimens. The Mint mark is usually filled on later die state pieces. This reverse die erosion becomes more evident with the advance in die state-some earlier die state coins will show a much more normal Mint mark, where it is not entirely filled in. Close examination of several high grade pieces is needed to look for additional die markers. Two other dies are reported, where the right front leg is somewhat attenuated, but these have a much stronger leg than Die #1 and their legitimacy is suspect. One such die is shown on the previous page. In September, 2009 a PCGS AU58 example of this coin (pictured above, left) sold for the unexpectedly high sum of $5,750 at the Long Beach auction conducted by Heritage Galleries. The coin pictured above, right, a PCGS MS62, sold for $7,475 at the Long Beach show conducted in Feb, 2012 Values for this variety (mainly for PCGS slabbed coins) have increased sharply upward in the last two or three years in the better grade levels, as seen below. Both the 1927-D 3HL and it's 1926-D counterpart are MUCH tougher to find in XF or better than the 1917-D 3HL listed earlier so this is a justified and undoubtedly overdue increase in the values for these two dates.

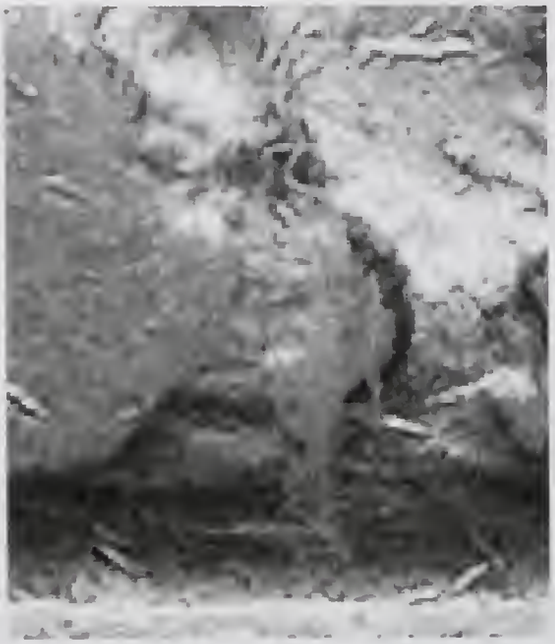
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 40	$ 65	$ 100	$ 200	$ 400	$ 850	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	65	85	145	275	500	1250	6500	9000	13500	---

1936-D ADR 3HL #06

B05-36D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1936D-901**



The entire reverse-not just the foreleg-shows evidence of attenuation. The Bison itself is slightly smaller than on a normal coin and the right rear leg shows very evident weakness, especially at the bottom. The lettering is also noticeably thinner. The right tip of the beard is shorter than the left. These characteristics, though not nearly as dramatic as the die markers on the 1937-D may still be used to verify the genuine item. Note the positioning of the Mint mark, an additional die marker, far right. Since altered examples of this variety have been seen these die markers are of significant importance.

Seen above is the 1936 contemporary counterfeit. This, and a similar 1935 were both listed in Spadone's Oddity and Variety guide, published in the early sixties, as genuine "two legged" varieties. These have since been shown to be counterfeits (unfortunate in a way-if they were genuine coins they would be the most significant ADE variety of all-a two feather, missing neck, broken nose and missing designer's initial obverse paired with a two legged, missing nose and missing tail reverse. What a variety THAT would be! Unlike many other counterfeits of the era this one seems to be made of a near correct alloy rather than the usually seen lead. See page E-10 for the 1935 "two legged" coin.

GENERAL RARITY

Scarce-estimated **URS 10** 251 to 500 currently known

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Very high

1936-D ADR 3HL #06

B05-36D3HL-01 **FS#-05-1936D-901**

OBSERVATIONS

This is by far the most well known and popular of the 3½ legged varieties and it is the only one currently listed in the "Red Book." It has been known at least since the late 1970's, and values, along with rarity, are pretty well established. The best specimens (like the one pictured) rival the 1937-D for the incompleteness of the attenuated leg-the weakness of which varies slightly from coin to coin. At the present time, two Mint state coins are known-a PCGS MS62 and an ANACS MS63. The PCGS MS62 example sold for $14,375 at the pre-ANA auction in July of 2005 then sold again in April, 2009 for $12,650. The ANACS MS63 specimen sold for $20,700 in March, 2009. This seems to have been somewhat of a bargain since earlier in 2005 an NGC AU 58 sold for $14,950. No fewer than 14 examples of this variety appeared for sale in the June, 2010 B&M Baltimore auction, and many more have appeared since, which has depressed the values for this coin in nearly every grade. It remains quite scarce any better than VF as the majority seen are in VG to Fine condition. It is also known that one collector has a hoard of ***over 50(!)*** of this variety. Even so, this coin seems to be considerably rarer than the 1926-D and 1927-D 3HL dates. The reason for this rarity is still unknown though it must certainly relate to early die failure and/or early recognition of the flaw by Mint personnel. The author has seen several ***ALTERED*** specimens of this variety, starting around 1998. As stated, this coin does not show many of the distinctive die markers of the 1937-D, so verification of genuineness is recommended before any purchase is made. All specimens seen by the author show weakness at the tops of the letters "TED STATES.' Even though it varies somewhat from coin to coin this characteristic still may turn out to be a good die marker to identify genuine examples of this variety, even though this same weakness is seen on many other dates.

A particularly nice example of the variety with a very weak leg.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES.

NOTES

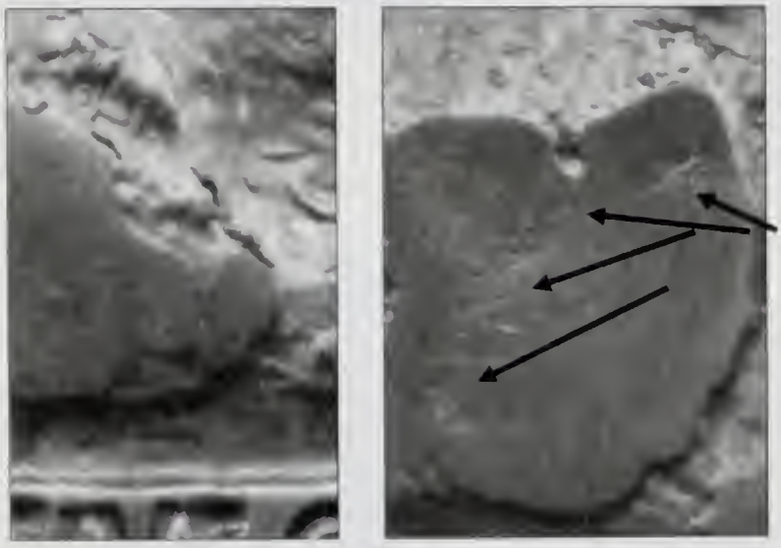
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 300	$ 400	$ 750	$1500	$2500	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	600	750	900	1750	2950	4000	12500	20000	---	---

1937-D ADR 3L #07

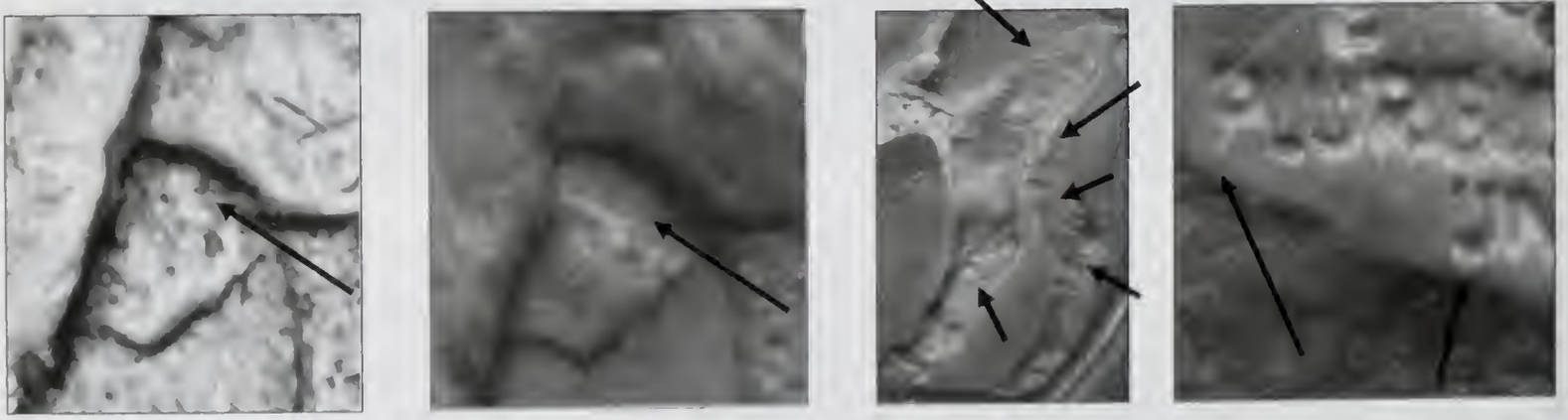
B05-37D3L-01 **FS#-05-1937D-901**

A genuine coin from the author's personal collection.



The line of dots from the belly to the ground is a distctive & easy to remember die marker seen on all seen on all genuine specimens of the variety.

An altered coin.



ABOVE-LEFT An intact feather from an image of a single coin seen by the author. This is the only intact feather the author has seen on a genuine coin. This may be a separate die stage. the usual detached feather is seen to the right.

ABOVE-CENTER AND RIGHT Many distinctive die markers characterize a genuine 3 legged coin, making authentication easy. See text.

1937-D ADR 3L #07

B05-37D3L-01 FS#-05-1937D-901

GENERAL RARITY

Common-estimated **URS 13+** **At least** 2001 to 4000 currently known-maybe more

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Very high

OBSERVATIONS

This is probably the most famous US error/variety coin-the only other coin that comes close is the 1955 doubled die obverse 1-O-I Lincoln Cent. It is often referred to as "rare" but a sizeable number was produced to begin with and since it was widely publicized from the start many were saved almost from the time of issue, and not just by collectors but by the general public as well. It is readily available in any grade from Fine through the lower levels of Mint State. It IS quite rare in less than VG condition-because of it's notoriety not many circulated long enough to wear that badly. It is also pretty tough in MS65; anything better is a major rarity. Some controversy exists as to the cause of the missing leg. Many years ago it was attributed to a filled die, which is definitely NOT the cause. Later it was stated to be caused by an overly abraded die, which is the correct explanation. It is the reason for this abrasion that is now questioned. The popular scenario is that the die clashed and the leg was polished away by the removal of the clash marks. A second cause indicates that the die was polished to remove rust. Due to the extensive die erosion and/or damage on both the obverse and reverse, this second reason seems possible (but very unlikely)-the real reason for abrading the die will probably never be known since the people involved are long since deceased. Enough distinctive die markers, both on the obverse and the reverse exist that no one should be fooled by an altered coin. On the obverse, the most evident die marker is a "detached" feather, involving the small feather next to the back of the neck which is present on nearly all specimens (though the author has seen an image of a single genuine coin with this small feather intact-see the image on the previous page.) On the reverse, the rear legs are badly eroded and the bison has the appearance of urinating on the ground by the presence of a curved line of raised dots. The motto EPU is farther away from the back on a genuine coin and the entire bison is slightly smaller than on a normal 1937-D, and the right tip of the beard is shorter than the left. Compare the two photos of a genuine and an altered coin on the previous page. The differences should be obvious. The author has recently seen several ***altered 1936-D*** 3½ legged coins. Authentication is now recommended for this date in addition to the 1937-D 3 legged variety. An *identifiable* "Proto 3L" die is rumored to exist for this coin, too, but it has yet to be verified.

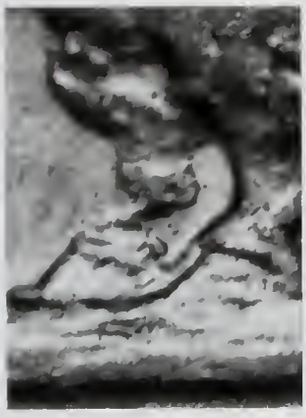
NOTES

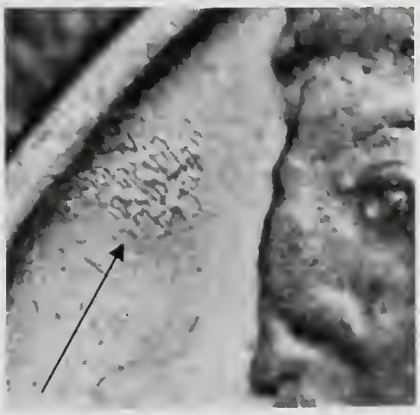
ESTIMATED VALUE

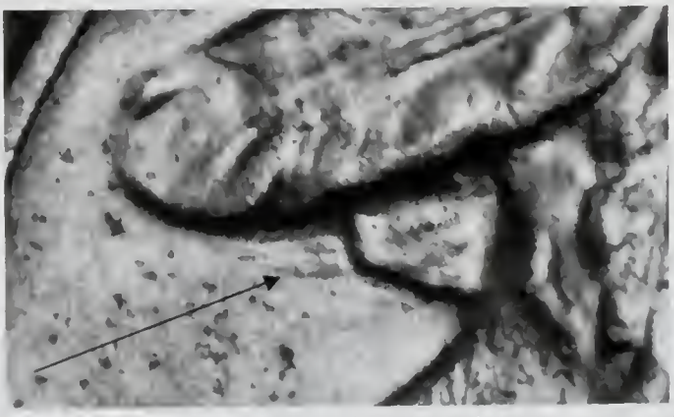
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$**********			SEE CURRENT PRICE GUIDES				**********		
S	$**********			SEE CURRENT PRICE GUIDES				**********		

1938-D ADR 3HL #08

B05-38D3HL-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**







The weakness on this variety just about equals that on an LDS 1916-D 3HL but this one shows more of a "detached" hoof. The first close-up image above was taken with the reverse upside down, which better illustrates the attenuation of the leg. The second close-up image was taken with the coin in a normal vertical orientation. Various obverse and reverse die markers- a die clash along with diagonal die polish lines through the date are highlighted here, as is the discovery coin attributed in a SEGS slab.

GENERAL RARITY

Not yet determined

COLLECTOR INTEREST

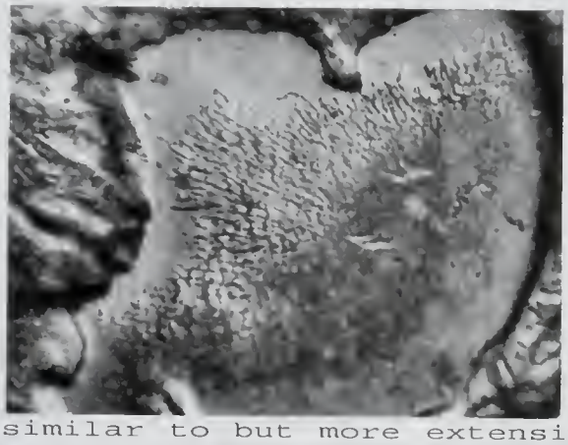
High

1938-D ADR 3HL #08

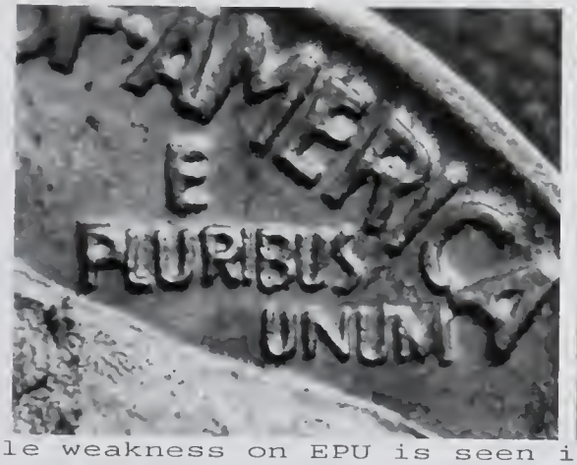
B05-38D3HL-01 **FS#-NOT LISTED**

OBSERVATIONS

Another new variety first reported by Lewis Fletcher in March, 2014 and the first new 3HL reported in almost exactly 10 years (as of March, 2014.) Though the leg is noticeably attenuated from any angle it appears to be weakest when viewed upside down. A number of characteristics strongly suggest that the attenuation was caused by an abrading of the die-the line of dots below the belly, much like the 1937-D 3 legged coin; the weakness in E PLURIBUS UNUM; and the characteristics of the weakened leg itself. It is NOT from a worn die as the coin is from an early state of the die with crisp, sharp lettering and a lack of flow lines. This is an important new discovery and may prove to be quite popular. Values and rarity at this time are not known as it has just been reported; one sale of a SEGS slabbed MS62 for $1500 has been reported as of May, 2014. This same coin has subsequently been slabbed and attributed as a "minor variety" by PCGS.



A series of raised dots similar to but more extensive than those found on the 1937-D 3 legged variety can be seen in the image above.



Noticeable weakness on EPU is seen in the image, above left. Mint mark position is shown, above right.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEWIS FLETCHER

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ 40	$ 50	$ 150	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ 850	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1250	---

THE URS RARITY SCALE

Compiled by Q. David Bowers. A much more precise and useful rarity scale than the Sheldon Rarity Scale more commonly seen. The URS Rarity Scale is used throughout this book.

URS SCALE	AS DEFINED IN THIS BOOK
URS 00 >>>>>>	UNKNOWN----------NONE REPORTED
URS 01 >>>>>>	ONE KNOWN----------UNIQUE
URS 02 >>>>>>	TWO KNOWN---------PROHIBITIVELY RARE
URS 03 >>>>>>	3 OR 4 KNOWN----------EXTREMELY RARE
URS 04 >>>>>>	5 TO 8 KNOWN----------EXTREMELY RARE
URS 05 >>>>>>	9 TO 16 KNOWN----------VERY RARE
URS 06 >>>>>>	17 TO 32 KNOWN----------VERY RARE
URS 07 >>>>>>	33 TO 64 KNOWN----------RARE
URS 08 >>>>>>	65 TO 125 KNOWN----------RARE
URS 09 >>>>>>	126 TO 250 KNOWN----------VERY SCARCE
URS 10 >>>>>>	251 TO 500 KNOWN----------SCARCE
URS 11 >>>>>>	501 TO 1,000 KNOWN--RELATIVELY COMMON
URS 12 >>>>	1,001 TO 2,000 KNOWN--RELATIVELY COMMON
URS 13 >>>>	2,001 TO 4,000 KNOWN----------COMMON
URS 14 >>>>	4,001 TO 8,000 KNOWN----------COMMON
URS 15 >>>>	8,001 TO 16,000 KNOWN----------COMMON

ET CETERA

***** A NOTE CONCERNING RARITY *****

The evident rarity of many of the abraded die varieties can be explained by two main factors-the damage caused by one or repeated clashes, which may not show up immediately but may significantly affect the eventual life of the die, and the state of the die when the clash occurs. If the clash and subsequent lapping of the die occurs toward the end of the it's normal useful life, relatively few coins may have been struck from that particular die to begin with. These factors explain why some of the ADE varieties may be rarer than other die varieties such as doubled dies and RPMs.

For any questions concerning this book, including how to obtain additional copies, and to report new discoveries, contact the author at:

COINquest1961@gmail.com

SECTION I ADDENDUM–NEW VARIETIES

All types of new abraded die varieties will be listed here as they are reported.

ADDENDUM-NEW VARIETIES

A GALLERY OF COLOR

CERTIFIED, EXQUISITELY TONED BUSINESS STRIKE AND PROOF BUFFALO NICKELS

1913 VARIETY ONE

1913-D VARIETY ONE

1913-S VARIETY ONE

Three distinctly different types of toning often seen on Buffalo Nickels.

1913 VARIETY ONE

1918-D 8 OVER 7

1913 VARIETY ONE

1916 DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE (1-O-V) Courtesy of Heritage

1915

1916-D

1921

1926

1929

1936 (Image courtesy of Joe Best)

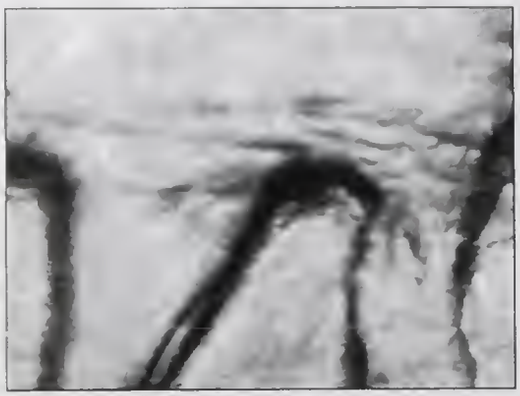
1913 VARIETY ONE MATTE PROOF

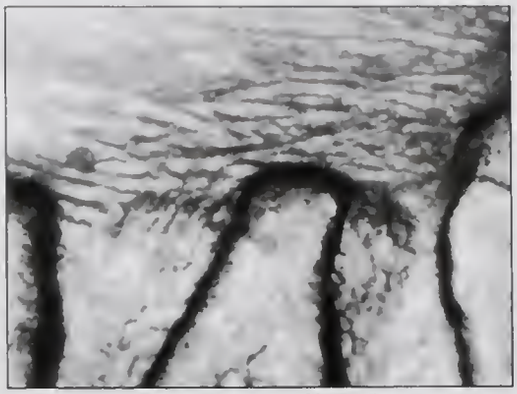
1913 VARIETY TWO MATTE PROOF

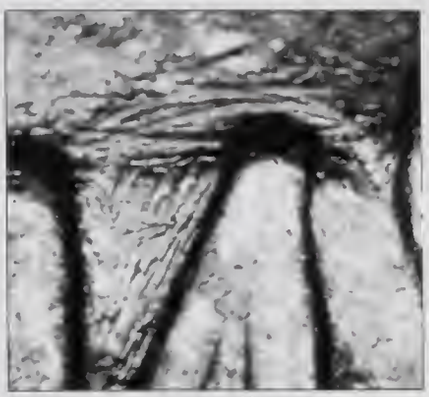
1937 BRILLIANT PROOF

PART TWO

THE 1914 4 OVER 3 OVERDATE VARIETIES


DIE #01

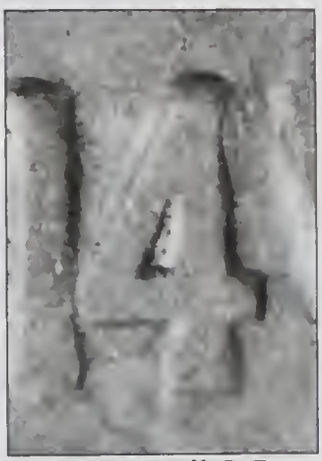

DIE #02


DIE # 03

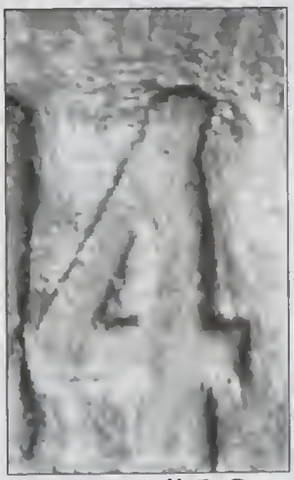
DIE #04

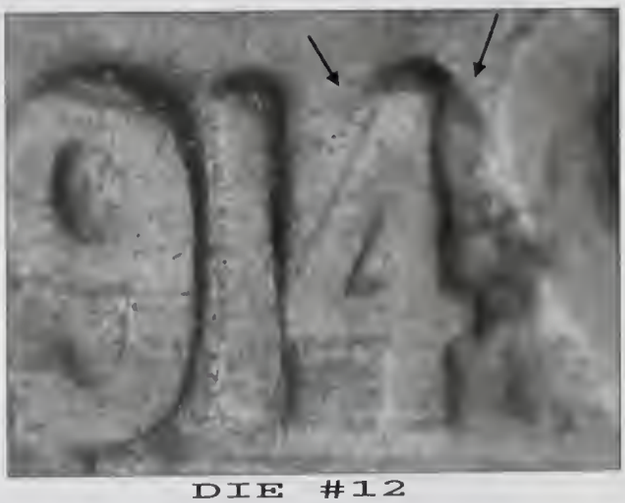
DIE #06

DIE #07


DIE #08

DIE #09

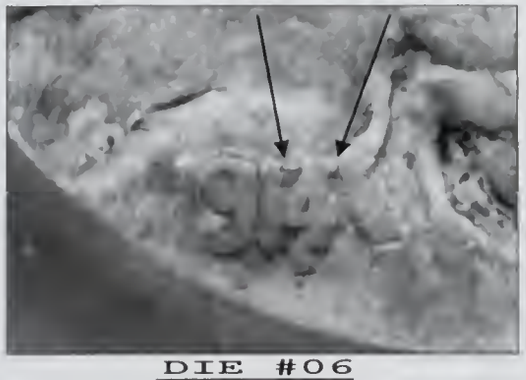

DIE #10


DIE #12

Some of the earlier die state coins from dies with known die markers (die clashes and die cracks) doubtlessly exist that will not show these die markers because they were struck before the die clashed or cracked. On others the die markers may be somewhat different in appearance due to repeated clashes or extended die cracks as the die continued to strike coins. The only way to positively identify such coins would be by close examination of the "4" of the date and the unique pattern of effacement marks, (which may have been an attempt to obscure the underdigit) above and around it. Closeups of that area for all dies are shown above to assist in this attribution.

Note: Dies #05, #11, and #13 have been de-listed. They were found to be differing die stages of Dies #03 and #10. Thanks to James Wiles for recognizing and bringing to the author's attention these listing errors.

SECTION K THE 1914 4/3 OVERDATE VARIETIES (10 TOTAL)



DIE #06

OVD #01	1914	1-O-III	DIE #01	PAGES K-04 &	K-05
OVD #02	1914	2-O-III	DIE #02	PAGES K-06 &	K-07
OVD ---	1914	3-O-III	DIE #03	PAGE	K-08
OVD ---	1914	4-O-III	DIE #04	PAGE	K-09
OVD******	1914	5-O-III ******	DIE #05	**********	DELISTED
OVD ---	1914	6-O-III	DIE #06	PAGE	K-10
OVD ---	1914	7-O-III	DIE #07	PAGE	K-11
OVD ---	1914	8-O-III	DIE #08	PAGE	K-12
OVD ---	1914	9-O-III	DIE #09	PAGE	K-13
OVD ---	1914	10-O-III	DIE #10	PAGE	K-14
OVD ---	1914	11-O-III *****	DIE #11	**********	DELISTED
OVD ---	1914	12-O-III	DIE #12	PAGE	K-15
OVD******	1914	13-O-III *****	DIE #13	**********	DELISTED
1914/13		NEW DIES			K-16
COIN WORLD ARTICLE ON THE 1914/13					K-17
COIN WORLD ARTICLE & 1914 4/3 #01 PCGS SLABBED					K-18

All US 20th century overdates are properly known as Class III (Design Hub Doubling) Doubled Dies and all are known from a single working die-except the 1914/13. One possible explanation was that it was the working ***HUB,*** which produces the working dies themselves, that was affected. A second and possibly more plausible theory, first mentioned by Tom DeLorey and echoed by John Dannreuther is that several partially or incompletely hubbed 1913 dies were hubbed with 1914 hubs. Several dies-at least ***13***-show this anomaly, ranging from a clear underdigit to one that is barely visible. Each of these dies will show differences in the strength and configuration of the underlying "3" and most dies and coins will show distinctive die markers unique to each die. This makes for an overdate that is much more common than one produced from a single working die. More dies likely exist. Any reported new dies will be inserted into this section of this book. The author would like to express thanks to those who made it possible to list and classify the multiple dies for this variety in this book. Brian Ribar provided excellent photos of the individual dies themselves. Many of the dies were first listed by die number in "Treasure Hunting Buffalo Nickels" back in 1999 and many were first reported in "The Hub," the excellent magazine produced by The National Collectors Association of Die Doubling. Bill Fivaz, John Hough, Mark Hess, and Brian Ribar provided coins for study and imaging. Thanks also to Dr James Wiles for determining that Dies 5, 11, & 13 are merely later die stages of Die #03. These have been delisted.

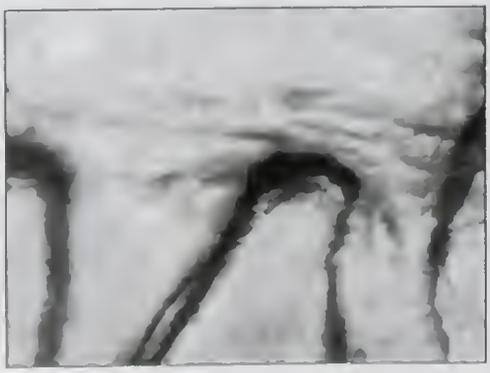
IMPORTANT NOTE: **As of April, 2014 some specialists have discounted this as an overdate while others still believe it is exactly that-an overdate. The author agrees with this second group. However, it should be recommended that potential buyers use caution in purchasing one of these for a significant premium until this debate is settled one way or another. In the meantime all pricing for this variety has been deleted until (and indeed IF) the issue is settled. Past sales records in the text are still shown.**

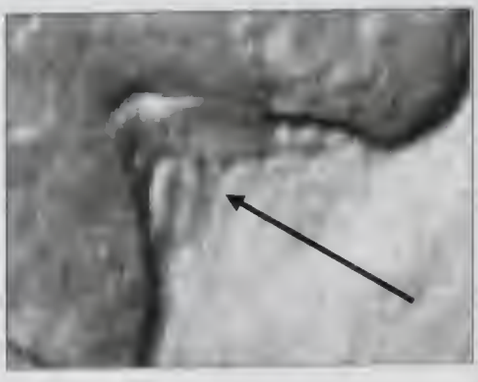
The 1918-D 8/7 is the premier overdate in the series and is known from only a single die, unlike the 1914 4/3 which is known from several dies.

1914 OVD 4/3 #01

B05-14/13P-01 **DIE #01** FS#-NOT LISTED

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES & LEWIS FLETCHER





1914 OVD 4/3 #01

B05-14/13P-01 DIE #01 FS#-NOT LISTED

The die clash pictured above will appear on most examples of this die. Although die markers such as clashes and die cracks can be useful in proper attribution, ultimately it's the effacement marks around the top of the "4" that are the ***ONLY*** definitive way to identify a particular die on this overdate.

OBSERVATIONS

This is the discovery die for the variety, first reported by R.A. Medina (from a coin graded Fine) in 1996 and confirmed, by overlay photos, to be a legitimate overdate in 1997 from a higher grade, earlier die state specimen provided by Roger Alexander. Shown is an early die state specimen with an exceptionally clear underdigit (crossbar.) The die clash pictured will occur on most coins from this die, though a few very early die state coins must certainly exist that would lack it. Early and mid die states (those with a clear crossbar and evident effacement lines above and around the top of the "4") of ***this*** die are being slabbed and attributed by PCGS just by using the 4/3 designation ***without*** the FS number. ***Values for the two dies should be similar.*** The author has seen Dies #01 and #06 slabbed as an overdate on several occasions in older slabs. When first confirmed as an overdate this coin brought very high prices-an MS66 once sold for over $50,000 and those slabbed as MS65 would typically bring $25,000 to $30,000. Values have since dropped precipitously in all grades from Good thru MS64 as it was realized that this was a working hub variety that had produced a number of different working dies and was much more common than first thought (each die may have produced as many as 100,000 to 150,000 coins.) This working hub theory was ultimately found to be the most likely scenario by the discovery of similar, but much less obvious coins from both the Denver and San Francisco Mints in addition to the several distinctive Philadelphia dies already recognized. As a rule, these Branch Mint coins bring somewhat lower prices than do the Philadelphia Mint coins. The overdate feature can be very difficult to identify on any coin graded less than Fine because of the typically weak date seen on Good and Very Good coins. However, many such coins can still be verified as overdates by the unique die markers that are found on most of the dies involved but these, too, can be quite hard to see. Rarities for each die are not given since rarity has not been established.

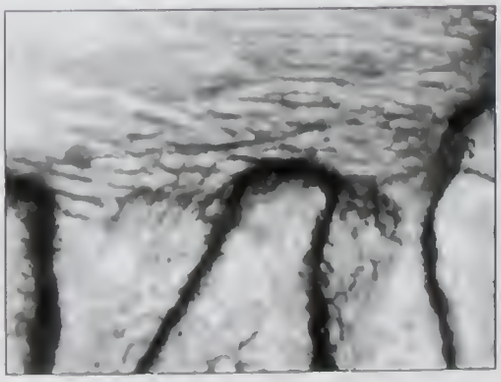
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1914 OVD 4/3 #02

B05-14/13P-02 **DIE #02** FS#-05-1914-101



1914 OVD 4/3 #02

B05-14/13P-02 **DIE #02** FS#-05-1914-101

OBSERVATIONS

Chronologically, this is the second identified overdate die. It is distinct from Die #01 in lacking the die clash under the chin and also by the slightly different shape of the underdigit. On early die state coins the crossbar can be just as clear on this die as on Die #01. Rarity is very close for the two dies. Die state is very important for all the 1914/13 varieties (this is true for *ALL* doubled dies though it is rarely considered or even mentioned in most cases.) The die state, almost as much as the actual wear on the coin, is a major factor determining the clarity of the underdigit. **Die #06 and one or two others (probably #04, #05, or #09) for this variety can occasionally be found attributed as an overdate in older PCGS slabs and slabs from other grading services. These will sometimes sell for nearly the same levels as Die #02.**

VALUES LISTED FOR DIES #1 AND #2 HAS DUAL VALUE LISTINGS. NOTE THAT RAW EXAMPLES USUALLY SELL FOR *MUCH* LESS.

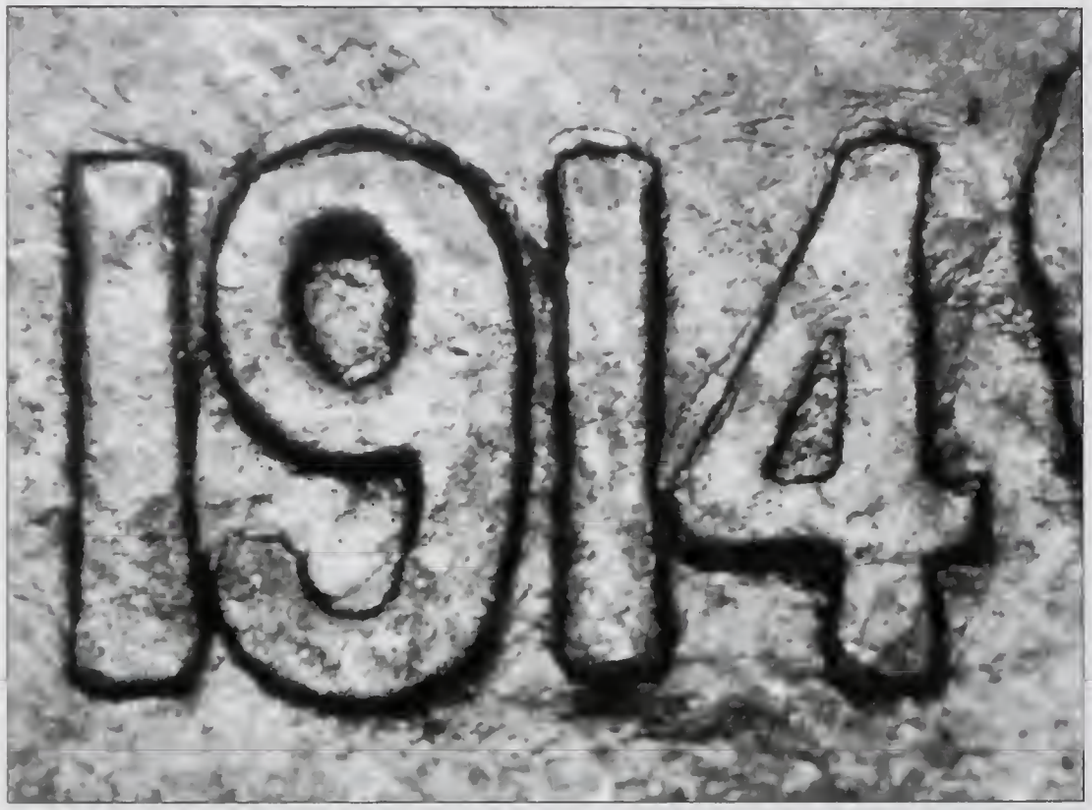
NOTES

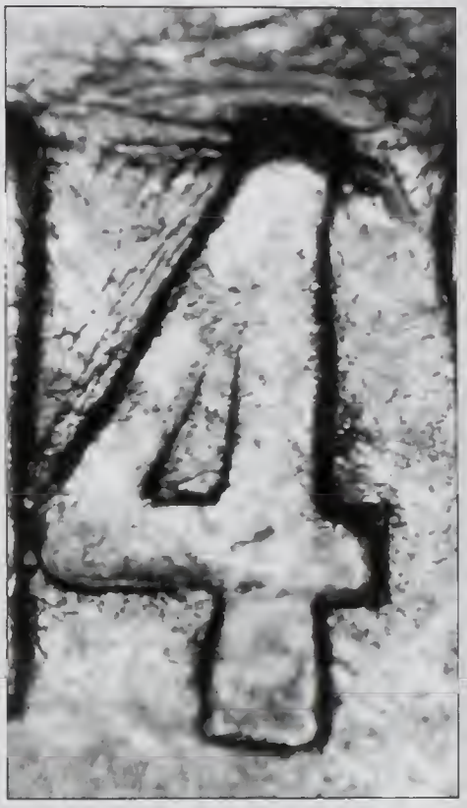
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1914 OVD 4/3 #03

B05-14/13P-03 DIE #03 FS#-NOT LISTED





PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN RIBAR

OBSERVATIONS

At the present time a photo of the entire coin is not available, so attribution of this die must be attempted solely from the closeup photo of the date. If and when a macro photo becomes available it will be added to future printings of this book. This die shows the EPU die clash under the chin in a configuration unique to this die. The underdigit is somewhat clearer than what is seen in the photos on the previous page, but are not of the clarity of Dies #01 or #02. The underdigit on low grade specimens would probably be very difficult, if not impossible, to see. As with the other dies for the variety, die clashes and die cracks would, in all likelihood, not be present on the earliest die states, so proper attribution would have to be made from the general characteristics of the underdigit and by the unique pattern of the effacement marks around the last digit of the date.

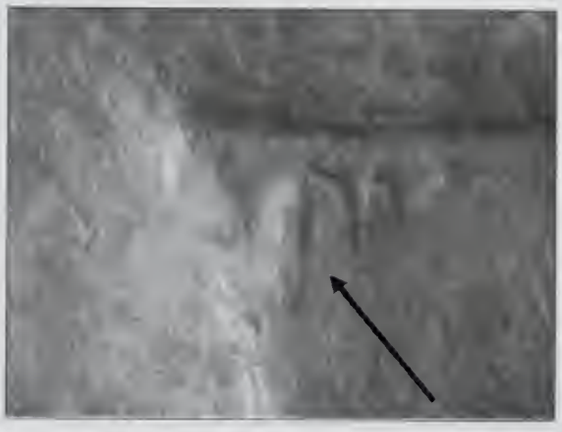
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #04

B05-14/13P-04 **DIE #04** FS#-NOT LISTED



OBSERVATIONS

The original Die #4 was listed several years ago and was then subsequently de-listed because it was determined not to be a legitimate overdate. The author had a coin of this die for several years but it didn't match up to any of the listed dies so it was sent to Brian Ribar, the five cent doubled die specialist for NCADD, in July of 2009. Brian has determined this coin to be an attributable specimen of a new die, which has now been added back to the listing of the dies for the 1914/13 variety. The crossbar of the underdigit on this die is just slightly less evident than that of Die #6 but may not be clearly visible on a coin graded lower the Fine. There is a moderately visible crossbar to the left of the digit that is much more evident than what is seen in the photos below. The author is aware of the sale of one coin, that of an XF specimen on ebay for $350 that occurred in March, 2013. One other die marker peculiar to this die is the EPU clash under the chin as seen in the photo below.

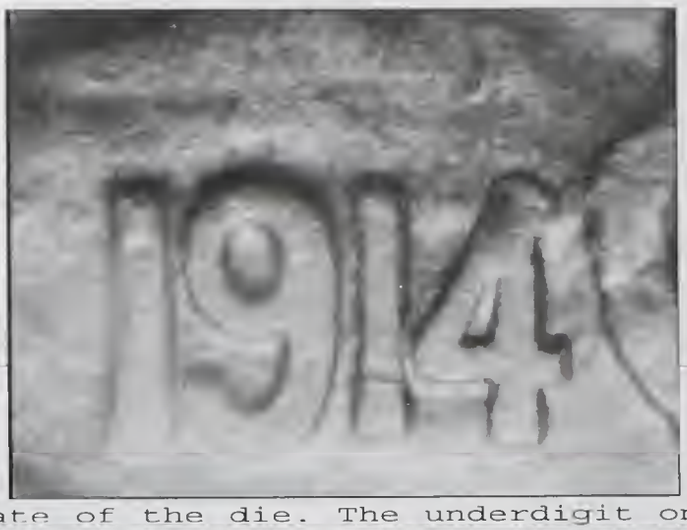
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

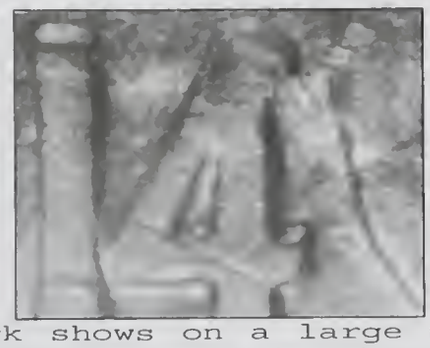
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #06

B05-14/13P-06 DIE #06 FS#-NOT LISTED



Die #6 from an early state of the die. The underdigit on a coin like this one rivals Dies #1 and #2 for clarity. Effacement lines around top of the "4" of the date, which was an attempt to obscure the underdigit on each individual working die are clearly evident in this photo. This is the *ONLY* definitive way to positively identify a particular die.



This clash mark shows on a large majority of the specimens seen and will aid in the positive identification of this die.

OBSERVATIONS

Note the shape and angle of the die clash under the chin-it is somewhat more prominent and more horizontal than on Die #01. The clarity of the underdigit from Die #6 can be as impressive as that seen on Dies #1 and #2 on coins from the earliest states of the die. The author has seen a number of coins from this die slabbed and attributed by the leading certification companies, but currently it is no longer attributed. It was first reported by Daniel Carr in the Sept-Oct 2000 issue of "The Hub"-the error/variety magazine of the National Collectors Association of Die Doubling (NCADD). Rarity is similar to the first two dies. **Examples of this die attributed as FS 014.87 in an older PCGS slab may sell for prices close to or even equal to Die #02. (This applies to any of the currently unrecognized dies slabbed and attributed in an older PCGS slab.)** An MS64 specimen of this die attributed as an overdate sold for $1,500 in April, 2011. Note the heavy effacement lines in the third and fourth photos above around the top of the "4". These die effacement lines are found on most of the 1914 4/3 dies and were an attempt to obscure the underlying "3". They differ from die to die and should be used as *THE* definitive die marker for each die.

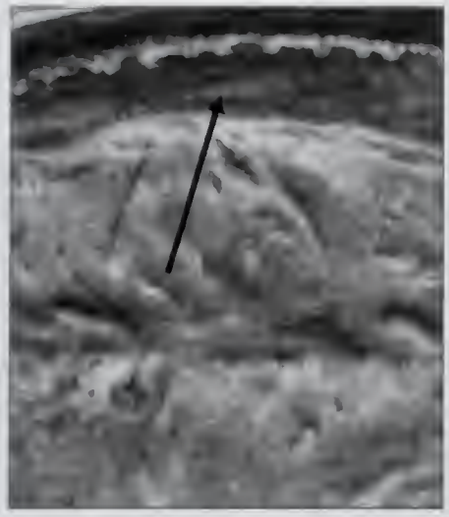
NOTES

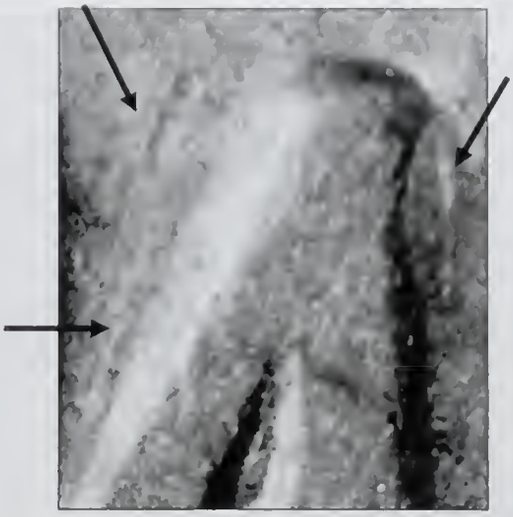
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #07

B05-14/13P-07 DIE #07 FS#-NOT LISTED





Left-Note the die crack at the top of the head that helps to distinguish this die. Right-Effacement marks are virtually absent on this die.

A die crack at the top of the head. This die marker may not be present on the earliest coins struck from the die.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN RIBAR AND GARY TORKINGTON.

OBSERVATIONS

On the specimen examined, there was no evidence of a die clash under the chin. This is also a characteristic of Die #02, but the underdigit on Die #07 is much weaker than on Die #02. A die crack between the top of the head and the rim at 12:00 was seen on this coin. Only faint signs of effacement marks around the "4" in the date can be seen. The underdigit on low grade specimens would probably be very difficult, if not impossible, to see.

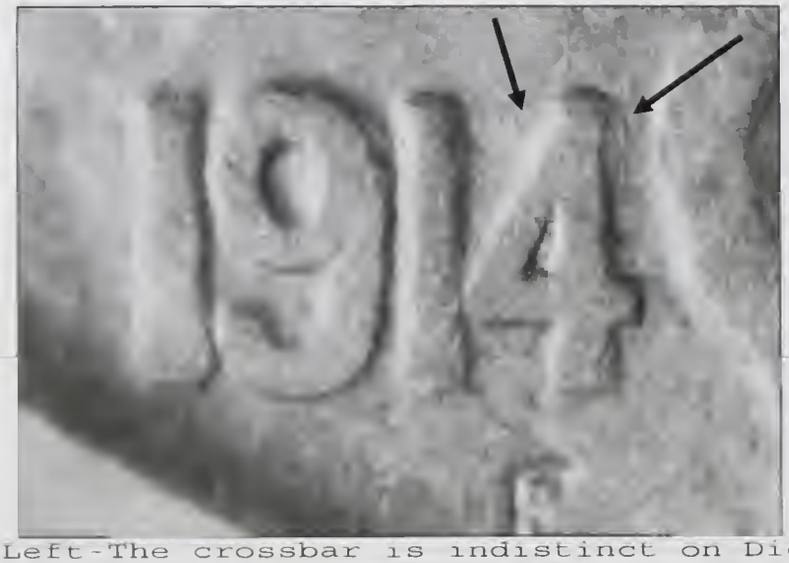
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A.	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #08

B05-14/13P-08 DIE #08 FS#-NOT LISTED



Left-The crossbar is indistinct on Die #08. This weak crossbar can be most easily seen if the date is viewed at a 90 degree angle (sideways.)
Right-Most examples of this die will show the die clash as seen above.

Like Die #7, Die #8 displays none of the distinctive effacement lines seen on Dies #1-#6 and Die #9. The discovery piece is shown on the right.

COURTESY OF BRIAN RIBAR

OBSERVATIONS

Die state is critical for this die. The crossbar is weak and probably very difficult to see on any coin in less than Fine condition and/or on any die state later than mid die state (MDS). Though the underdigit can be hard to see, this seems to be a legitimate overdate. The discovery specimen-a SEGS AU53 coin-pictured above-sold at a Goldberg auction in 2007 for $625. Interestingly enough, the crossbar can seen *much* better if the date is viewed at a 90 degree angle rather than in the normal vertical orientation. Note the weak EPU die clash under the chin. Unlike most other dies, effacement marks around the "4" of the date seem to be nearly absent. This die seems to be much rarer than Dies #01, #02, or #06, probably due to the fact that the underdigit was weaker to begin with and may have disappeared entirely once a few thousand coins were struck from the die.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #09

B05-14/13P-09 DIE #09 FS#-NOT LISTED

OBSERVATIONS

The underdigit on this die has an indistinct, "mushy" appearance. Whether this is due to a more vigorous attempt to disguise the underdigit or a die from later hubbing from the working hub is not known. It may be a combination of both. Two excellent die markers are evident on the obverse of this die-the distinctive EPU die clash under the chin and the prominent, though typical die clash in front of the nose. Note, too, the clear "mask" that is present-another very useful die marker. A clear die marker is also evident on the reverse as seen above. These are the primary die markers for this die, though, like the other dies with die clashes and die cracks a few very early die state coins must certainly exist without the die markers. Close examination of the characteristics of the underdigit and the pattern of the die effacement marks around it would be necessary to differentiate the individual die in these cases. On this die these are very faint and seem to appear only to the right of the "4." A near terminal die state of the obverse of this die paired with a different reverse die lacking the die crack above "FIVE CENTS" has been reported by Bill Fivaz. A SEGS slabbed MS61 of this die sold for $1100 in November of 2012.

NOTES

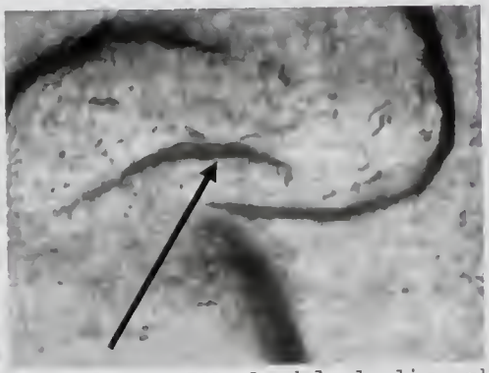
ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A.	**********	**********	**********	**********	**********	**********	**********	**********	**********

1914 OVD 4/3 #10

B05-14/13P-11 DIE #10 FS#-NOT LISTED

LEFT-The underdigit is of moderate strength on this die. Note the distinctive pattern of effacement lines above and around the top of the "4." **RIGHT**-A weak EPU clash is seen under the chin. Photos courtesy of Brian Ribar.



IMMEDIATELY ABOVE-A very minor Class IV doubled die shows on the eyelid and inside the nostril. This is in addition to the Class III overdate. Thanks to Dr James Wiles for the images of the Class IV (+VIII) images. Some coins will show the die clashes above.

OBSERVATIONS

First reported by Lewis Fletcher in September, 2012. The clarity of the crossbar is similar to Die #04. In addition to the overdating (Class III doubled die) seen on this die it also shows irrefutable Class IV doubling on the eyelid and within the nostril, which was first reported by James Gately. Dr. Wiles, who has this coin listed in the CONECA files for the Class IV doubling is as yet uncertain that this (or any) of the 1914/13 dies are legitimate overdates. Some refute the overdate status of these coins entirely; others (the author included) believe they are indeed legitimate overdates.

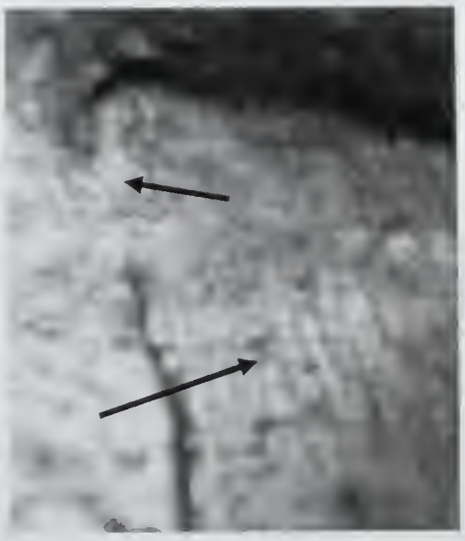
NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

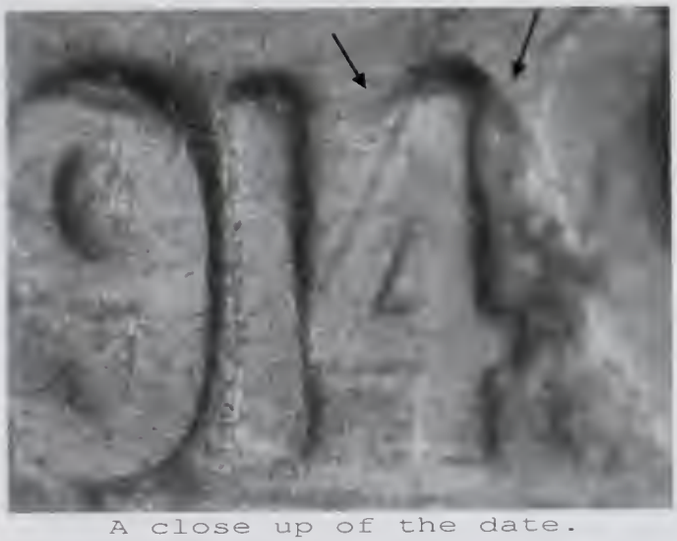
	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 OVD 4/3 #12

B05-14/13P-12 **DIE #12** **FS#-NOT LISTED**



The image above, center, shows a coin that was struck before the dies clashed. The image to the right shows a coin after the effacement attempt has been made. Obvious effacement lines to remove the EPU clash are seen under the chin. Both images are of different die stages of Die #12. There is also a third die stage showing the EPU clash. Note, also, the different configuration of the neck itself before and after the effacement.



A close up of the date.

Note the die chip between the two rear hooves.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN RIBAR AND LEWIS FLETCHER

OBSERVATIONS

Another die first reported by Lewis Fletcher in April, 2013. The crossbar is of moderate strength. A Mint State coin sold for $987 on ebay in September, 2013.

NOTES

ESTIMATED VALUE

	GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
S	N/A	**********								

1914 4/3 NEW VARIETIES

January 6, 1997 "Enriching coin collectin

Find confirms new overdate

Collector locates high-grade1914/3 Indian Head 5¢

By William T. Gibbs
COIN WORLD Staff

A new 20th century overdate variety, a 1914/3 Indian Head 5-cent coin, has been confirmed with the discovery of a high-grade specimen bearing clear traces of a 3 beneath the 4.

The confirmation coin was discovered by Texas collector Roger Alexander. Confirmation of the variety was made by the author and Bill Fivaz, a variety specialist in Georgia, as well as by R.A. Medina, another Texas collector who discovered the first low-grade specimen, reported in *Coin World* in June 1996.

Specialists who examined several low-grade specimens earlier this year were hopeful that the variety was a new overdate, but wanted to see a high-grade specimen with more of the 3 visible before confirming existence of the variety.

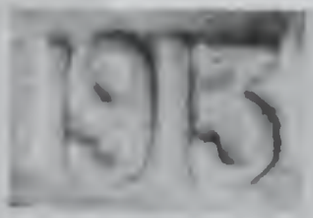
The possibility of the new overdate was discussed in the Collectors' Clearinghouse column in the June 10, 1996, issue.

TRACES OF A 3 appear beneath the 4 on Roger Alexander's 1914/3 Indian Head 5-cent coin, left. The new overdate, which surfaced earlier this year in Texas, has been confirmed by this high-grade specimen.

A portion of the 3 may also be visible within the triangle formed by the various bars of the 4, although this is less certain, and the lines may actually be tooling marks.

Tooling marks (raised on the coin, incused on the die) are visible above the 4. The tooling marks are likely the result of a Mint employee's attempt to remove traces of the 3 from the die.

(Alexander's coin also has moderate mechanical doubling on the date and the back of the portrait. This doubling is unrelated to the overdate, and is commonly encountered on this design. Clash marks also appear on the coin, beneath the Indian's chin and along E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse.)



COMPARE the shape of the 3 on this 1913 Indian Head 5-cent coin to the remnants of the 3 on the 1914/3 coins.

Alexander told *Coin World* Dec. 18 that he found the coin Dec. 14 at the Universal City coin show in Texas. He's been looking at every 1914 Indian Head 5-cent coin he could find since Medina, the Texas collector who found the first coin (featured in the June 10 Clearinghouse column), showed him that first specimen. Alexander said he has examined 300 to 400 coins since he learned that the variety might exist.

Alexander has actually found two specimens of the overdate. He sent the first, a low-grade specimen like Medina's coin, to *Coin World* earlier this year for examination. Again, because the coin was heavily worn, *Coin World* was unable to confirm the variety's existence. (Interestingly, three specimens have been found in the same area of Texas.)

Alexander paid $12 for the coin. He told *Coin World* he has already turned down an offer of $8,000 for the coin. He said he probably will sell the high-grade coin since he already owns a low-grade specimen and has "some bills to pay."

Fivaz notes that the coin was discovered through a contest he sponsored in the March-April 1996 issue of *Errorscope*, the bimonthly publication of the Combined Organizations of Error Collectors of America.

Fivaz challenged collectors to search for unreported overdate and over Mint mark varieties (an over Mint mark occurs when Mint mark punches from two different Mints are used on the same die, as on the 1944-D/S Lincoln cent). Fivaz named the contest after Ted Clark, who sponsored a similar contest in 1980 for members of the Numismatic Error Collectors of America.

Fivaz promised to pay the finder of the first new overdate $100. He said he has already sent Medina a $100 bill, even before he examined Alexander's new specimen.

Medina sent the first, low-grade specimen of the overdate to Fivaz as his entry in the contest. Fivaz examined the coin, felt it could be a new overdate, and sent it to various specialists for their opinions, including *Coin World's*. That's what led to the first publication of the variety in the June 10 *Coin World*.

What is amazing, Fivaz notes, is that it took so long for the overdate to be discovered.

The coin is the second overdate variety for the Indian Head 5-cent series. It joins the 1918/7-D variety, known for decades. The 1918/7-D coin is a key date for the series and is one of the most desirable of 20th century U.S. coins.

Both coins are actually Class III doubled dies (Design Huh Doubling). The die which struck the new variety was partially formed with a 1913-dated hub, and completed with a 1914-dated hub.

Current *Coin World* Trends values for 1918/7-D overdate variety are: $350 in Good 4 condition, $600 in Very Good 8, $1,075 in Fine 12, $2,220 in Very Fine 20, $4,250 in Extremely Fine 40, $7,250 in About Uncirculated 50, $14,000 in Mint State 60, $38,500 in MS-63, $75,000 in MS-64 and $165,000 in MS-65.

Coin World Trends Editor Keith M. Zaner said that in order for the new variety to become as popular and desirable as the 1918/7-D coin, the 1914/3 5-cent coin will have to become available in quantity and in grades of Very Fine and higher.

Zaner said it is also important for all major price guides to list the variety in order for it to gain widespread acceptance. CW

We Must Be

The "Coin World" article from Jan 6, 1997 confirming the overdate (Die #01- note the pattern of effacement marks) on a coin submitted by Roger Alexander.

1914 4/3 DIE #01

IS THIS AN OVERDATE? Some who have studied this 1914 Indian Head 5-cent coin believe they see the faint remains of the top of a 3 in the form of a bar beneath the 4 in the date on this coin from R.A. Medina. Collectors' Clearinghouse is not convinced one way or the other. However, we've been asked to publish these photos and ask our readers to check out their 1914 5-cent coins in hopes of finding a higher grade or earlier die state specimen.

Is there a 1914/3 5¢ coin?

Jury of numismatic peers still arguing case,
but at least one is 95% convinced coin is an overdate

Collectors' Clearinghouse

"Tips for collecting things heritage"

How to send coins to Collectors' Clearinghouse

"Collectors' Clearinghouse" is a regular Coin World feature which identifies errors, explains how they occur and reports new varieties. Readers may send up to three coins for evaluation and study. Readers should exercise prudent caution and send coins by registered or insured mail. There is no charge, however, return postage, particularly registered and insurance fees, should be included. All questions and coins submitted for evaluation should be addressed to: Coin World, Collectors' Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365-0150.

By William T. Gibbs
COIN WORLD Staff

We interrupt our regularly scheduled program to bring you this special news bulletin.

In other words, we're going to preempt Ken Porter's guest series of Collectors' Clearinghouse columns to bring you this important news, and ask you, our faithful readers, to check your collection and inventory.

Specifically, Clearinghouse wants readers to check their 1914 Indian Head 5-cent coins for signs of a 3 beneath the 4. Now, before you get too excited, Clearinghouse is not ready to state categorically that a 1914/3 Indian Head 5-cent overdate exists. However, several very astute and talented numismatists who have examined the coin from Texas collector R.A. Medina are sufficiently excited about the piece that Clearinghouse was persuaded to interrupt its current series for this special advisory column.

Medina's coin has a raised bar (very faint, but it's there) beneath the 4 in the date in about the location one would expect to find the top of a 3, if a 3 truly were located beneath the 4.

As collectors know, the Indian Head 5-cent coin already has a nifty overdate: the 1918/7-S coin, long considered a key in the series and one of the most desirable of 20th century die varieties.

Both the 1918/7-S coin and Medina's coin – if it is judged to be an overdate – are actually doubled dies, produced when obverse hubs bearing two different dates. In the case of the 1918/7-S coin, the die was first hubbed with a 1917 dated hub, then completed with a 1918 dated hub, creating the overdate. Any 1914/13 5-cent overdate would have been created in the same manner, unlike all of the 19th century and 19th century overdates (those were produced when individual numerals were punched over or set different numerals).

LEFT-The Coin World article first reporting the 1914/13 overdate (Die #01.) **RIGHT**-Pictured above is a latest generation PCGS "prong" holder containing an attributed 1914 4/3 Die #01 variety. There's no doubt that this is Die #01.

Early and mid die states of this die are given just the "4/3" designation without the FS number, as it's Die #02, not Die #01, that is pictured in the CPG. In response to an inquiry by the author, Mike Faraone of PCGS responded with the following: **"Die 2 is the one we call 4/3. On rare occasion, we will call die 1 a 4/3 and only if the overdate is strong and the die lines above the 4 show."** NGC won't attribute *ANY* die as a 1914 4/3. *The author is not aware of the attribution policies of ICG or ANACS for this variety.*

PART THREE

THE STRIKE

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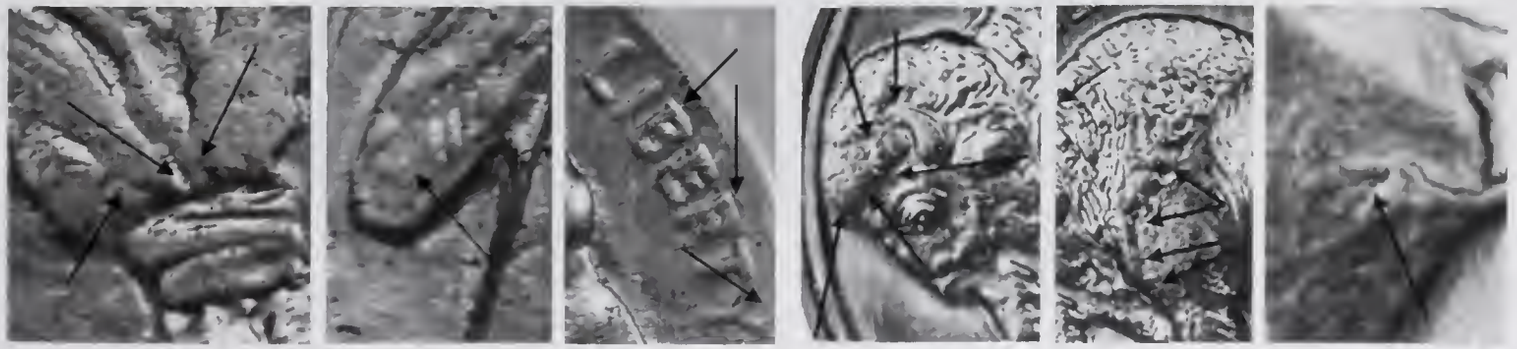
A 100% fully struck 1919 S Buffalo Nickel an extreme rarity in the series with a true full strike. Note the strong die clashes evident on both the obverse and the reverse.

THE STRIKE

This should, perhaps, be called a ***"details" study*** rather than a strike study because so many of these coins lack detail due to worn dies rather than to an actual deficiency of the strike itself (often, it's a combination of both.) At any rate, the Buffalo nickel is considered by many as ***THE*** most notorious 20th century coin when the quality of strike is considered. Its high relief, especially in opposing parts of the design from obverse to reverse coupled with the hardness of the copper-nickel alloy account for lack of quality strikes for many dates. Even proofs can be affected. The use of worn dies in the late 'teens and well into the 'thirties and especially on the branch Mint issues plays a large-perhaps the largest-part, too, even though, technically, this has nothing to do with the strike. There is no one simple qualifier, such as Full Head on the Standing Liberty Quarter or Full Bands on the Mercury Dime that is used for this series-perhaps because so many different parts of the design can show significant weakness. A simple "FS" for Full Strike would be the most logical term to use for the Buffalo nickel, (and perhaps for other series as well-many Standing Liberty quarters show full head details, but the shield, which is another key area, often lacks significant detail even if the head is complete.) All parts of the design should be taken into account-not just one small, isolated part-for every series that is prone to serious striking weaknesses. A considerable number of Buffalo nickel dates are currently unknown to display a full strike-surprisingly, many of these are not those branch Mint dates from the 'twenties that have a reputation for incomplete strikes. Some of these would include dates such as the 1929, 1930, and 1931-S. Shown below are the most important parts of the design for both sides when looking for strike quality. Those shown are fully struck. The braid area indicated on the obverse is directly opposite the high point of the shoulder on the reverse, while the tip of the small feather on the obverse is directly opposite of the bison's head on the reverse. The former is considered to be the opposing area of highest relief mentioned, so it's not too surprising that a severe lack of detail usually occurs here. Some dates are often seen with weak peripheral detail as well-the date, LIBERTY, USA, and FIVE CENTS. The tail is often cited as the key part of the design to indicate a fully struck reverse, and must be taken into consideration for a full strike, but complete details at the front of the Bison's head and a complete, fully raised diagonal hairline across the back seems to be MUCH more difficult to find for most dates than is a "split" or "full" tail. Worn, eroded dies-used far beyond their useful life apparently as an economy measure-are often confused with weak strikes. This is the main problem with the branch Mint coins of the 'twenties and can involve either the obverse and reverse dies at the same time or, more often, one die only-usually the reverse die. These can be told from true weak strikes by the presence of heavy flow lines and other severe die erosion and indistinct overall detail, even in the areas of low relief. Nor can a coin be weakly struck on one side only-some coins will show strong detailing on one side and poor detailing on the other side. A good marker for this on the obverse is the incused initial "F"-late die states will usually show this initial indistinctly or with distortion, often making it look like a "P." An indistinct "blob" of a Mint mark is often the result of a worn die. **The text below each macro photo illustrating the strike is labeled as to whether it is an extreme, average, or above average example of a coin that qualifies for that particular strike characteristic. On the weak strike example, a coin could show considerably more detail than the coin shown and still be considered a weak strike. On the good strike, a coin could show somewhat less detail than the coin shown and still be considered a good strike. The others are near perfect examples for the strike indicated.** ***It must also be remembered that the strike detail and die state of the ENTIRE coin must be taken into account, not just one or two of the key strike details of the design. However, for the purposes of the strike as defined in this book, if any one of the key areas as seen in photos #1, #4, or #5 below is weak or typical then the entire coin must be designated as weak or typical regardless of how well the balance of the coin is struck.***



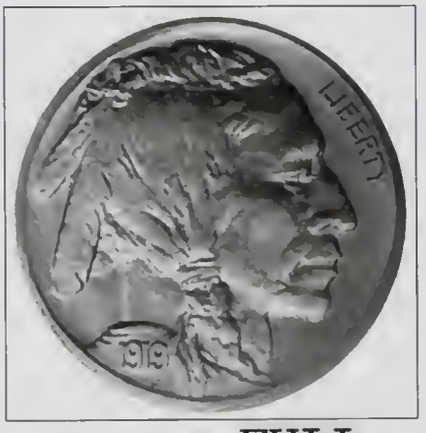
THE KEY PARTS OF THE DESIGN TO CHECK FOR THE STRIKE

THE STRIKE-STRIKE COMPARISONS

OBVERSE-**WEAK**

OBVERSE-**TYPICAL**

OBVERSE-**GOOD**



OBVERSE-**FULL**

REVERSE-**WEAK**

REVERSE-**TYPICAL**

REVERSE-**GOOD**

REVERSE-**FULL**

A WORN DIE COMPARED TO A WEAK STRIKE

A WORN OR ERODED DIE- Note how even the deepest parts of the design are weak. The lettering is thick and badly distorted. Flow lines in the field are evident. The mint mark, if any, is distorted.

A WEAK STRIKE- Only the highest points of the design (the deepest points in the die) are weak. Most of the lettering is clear and the mint mark is distinct. The fields show a minimum of flow lines.

TWO MS62 1925-S BUFFALO NICKELS

1925-S BUFFALO NICKEL WITH A NON-ERODED REVERSE DIE (TOP) AND AN ERODED REVERSE DIE (BOTTOM)

Two 1925-S Buffalo Nickels, both certified and graded MS62. The top coin was struck from a relatively early state of the dies while the lower coin was struck from a very advanced state of the dies. This late die state is often mis-classified as a "weak strike" when, in fact, the main cause of the lack of detail is a badly eroded die. This most often affects the reverse die, but obverse dies showing this die erosion are also occasionally seen too, sometimes paired with a much earlier die state reverse die. Most collectors ignore the die state of a coin. Even though both of these coins are graded the same, which would you rather have?

COMMONLY SEEN STRIKE IRREGULARITIES

1924-S 5C-MID DIE STATE OBV AND LATE DIE STATE REV

A 1924-S Buffalo Nickel obverse showing a coin struck from a middle die state obverse die with good detailing. Note the clarity of the lettering, date, and design elements.

The reverse of the coin pictured above struck from a very late die state reverse die. Note the significant erosion of the lettering and design elements and incomplete detailing. Such die pairings are frequently found on Buffalo Nickels, especially those from the San Francisco Mint from 1919 through 1928. It has been suggested that the reverse dies were re-used from the previous year as an economy measure-in the author's opinion, a distinct possibility.

1925-S 2F 5C WITH A BADLY ERODED REV DIE

1925-S Buffalo Nickel struck from a mid-die state obverse die. The obverse of this coin grades a solid very fine.

The reverse of the coin shown above. It is struck from a very late die state and badly eroded die and would probably grade about good or, at best, good.

COMMONLY SEEN STRIKE IRREGULARITIES

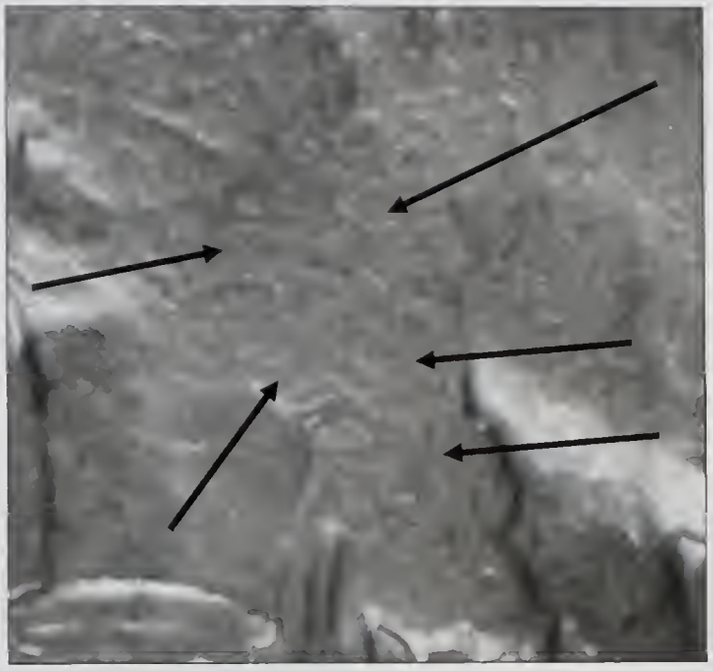
1924-S BUFFALO NICKEL WITH BADLY ERODED OBV AND REV DIES

A 1924-S Buffalo Nickel showing a badly eroded obverse die-one of the worst the author has ever seen. The coin pictured grades XF or better and actually retains some Mint luster. The corresponding reverse is shown below. Coins like this and the preceding 1925-S can be very difficult to price correctly even though they may technically merit a high grade.

The reverse of the coin pictured above. It is equally as eroded and worn as the obverse die but actually also shows some Mint luster. Once coins like these entered circulation, spent a short time there, and subsequently lost most of their Mint luster they quickly went from a Mint State coin to one graded Fine or lower.

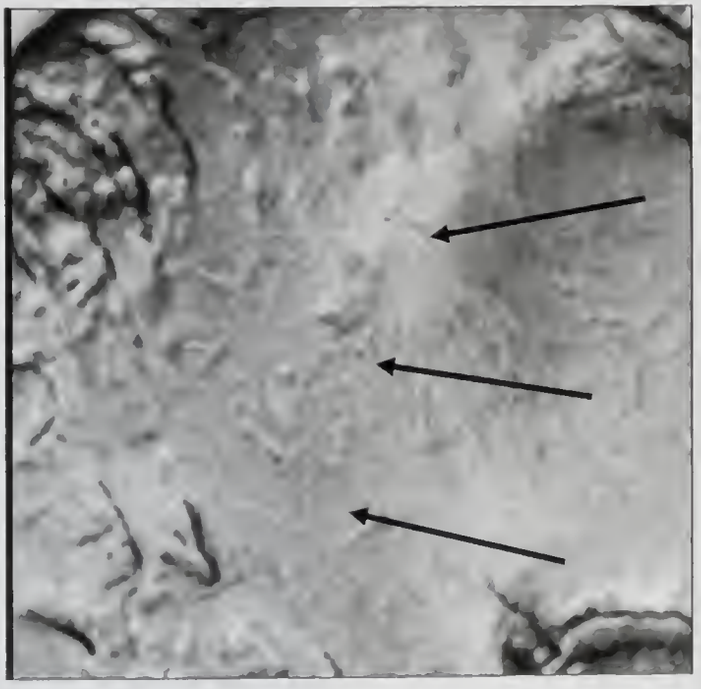
COMMONLY SEEN STRIKE IRREGULARITIES

WEAK CENTRAL DETAILS ON A 1918-S BUFFALO NICKEL



Extreme strike weakness as seen on the braid and braid ribbon on the obverse of a 1918-S Buffalo Nickel. The balance of the obverse shows an acceptable strike. This is a common problem with many dates throughout the series. As applied to the strike as defined in this book, the quality of the strike is based largely on this key area, regardless of how well struck the rest of the coin may be.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Galleries.



Extreme strike weakness as seen on the Bison's shoulder, back, and upper portion of the left front leg on the reverse of a 1918-S Buffalo Nickel. The balance of the coin shows a typical strike. This directly corresponds to the weakness on the braid shown above. As with the braid area on the obverse, the general strike quality is based largely on the detail present here (as well as on another key area the Bison's head) regardless of how well struck the rest of the coin may be.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Galleries

COMMONLY SEEN STRIKE IRREGULARITIES

AREAS OF OPPOSING WEAKNESS–OBVERSE AND REVERSE

Localized weakness at the tip of the uppermost feather on the obverse. On normally aligned dies, this is opposite the front of the Bison's head on the reverse. Weakness here will usually translate to weakness on the opposing area of the reverse, as shown below. This is often seen on the Denver Mint coins of 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1924.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Galleries.

Localized weakness at the front of the Bison's head-directly opposite the tip of the uppermost feather on the obverse. In severe cases, the horn is affected to the extent of incompleteness or even complete absence.

Photo courtesy of Heritage Galleries.

COMMONLY SEEN STRIKE IRREGULARITIES

PERIPHERAL WEAKNESS ON A 1913-S VARIETY ONE BUFFALO NICKEL

A 1913-S Variety One Buffalo nickel showing significant peripheral weakness. This is a frequent problem found on both the 1913-S Variety One and 1913-S Variety Two coins. Note the missing designer's initial.

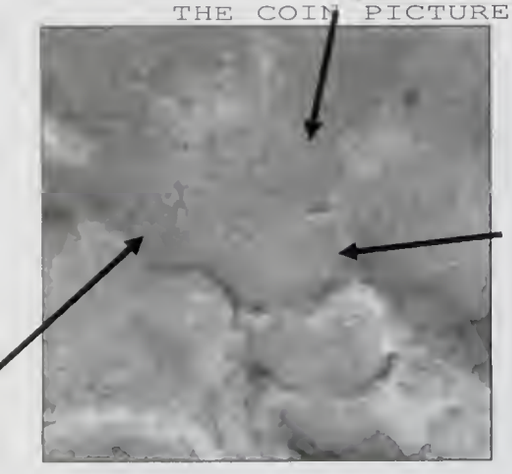
PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES.

THE STRIKE—AN INCREDIBLY STRUCK BUSINESS STRIKE

Pictured above is an incredibly struck 1913-D Variety One Buffalo Nickel. This coin is every bit as fully struck as any Proof and is very unusual. Business strike Buffalo nickels just don't come any better struck than this.

THE STRIKE-WEAK STRIKE-OBVERSE

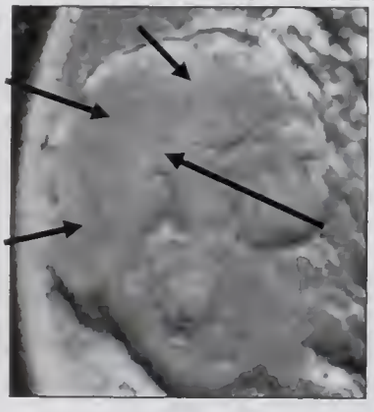
THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF A WEAK STRIKE

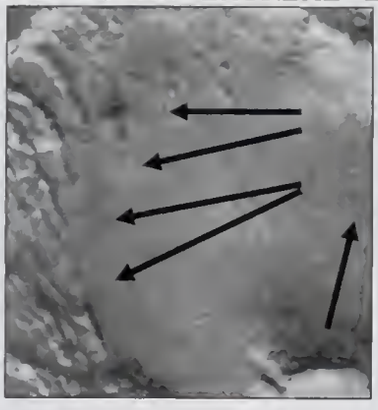


The most difficult place to find full detailing on the obverse of most dates is the hair detail immediately above the horizontal braid ribbon. On a weak strike, this portion of the design will be flat, showing little or no raised relief or detail. In extreme cases, the braid ribbon itself will be nearly or totally missing as well as the braid area immediately above. The tip of the small feather will be flat, as is the hairline across the cheekbone and behind the cheek and jaw. The horizontal hair ribbon will show little or no detail. The first two digits of the date may be weak or missing, especially at the bottom and LIBERTY may be flat and very weak, especially near the rim. Some coins-like the 1920 pictured- will show good details everywhere but the area just above the braid ribbon. These must still be considered weak strikes since this is the key place to determine strike quality on the obverse. The coin pictured above and on the next page is, amazingly, an AU coin with considerable Mint luster still remaining. It shows the detail of a coin in Fine condition. There are examples that are even more extreme. *8% to 10% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a weak strike.*

THE STRIKE-WEAK STRIKE-REVERSE

THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN EXTREME EXAMPLE OF A WEAK STRIKE

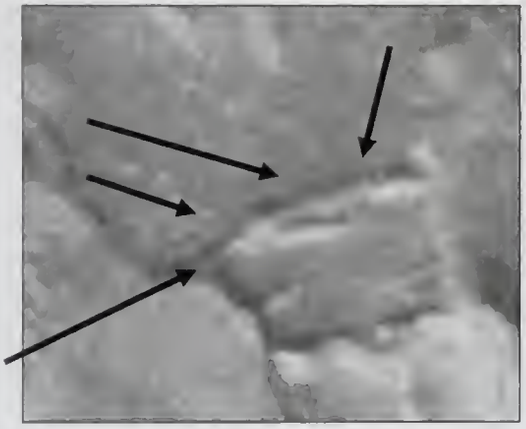




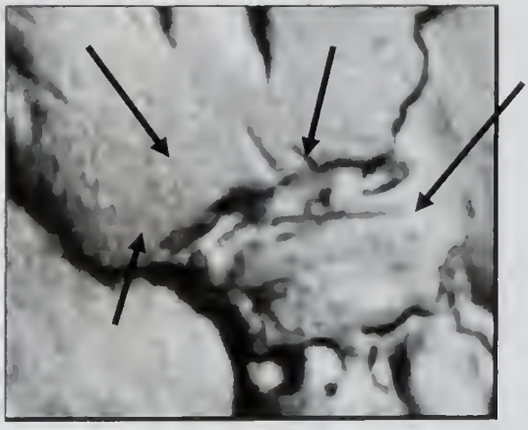
Hair, horn, and facial details will be largely incomplete and, in very extreme cases the horn may be missing altogether. Sometimes the front of the Bison's head will be weak, with the rest of the coin showing an adequate strike. In these cases, the corresponding last half of the small feather on the obverse will also be weak. These must be classified as weak strikes regardless of the quality of strike on the balance of the coin. The diagonal hairline that extends from the top of the back to the top of the left foreleg will be weak or totally absent, especially where it crosses the top of the foreleg. The peripheral lettering may be very weak and flat, especially near the rim, as will the lower part of the right rear leg. The brush of the tail may not show at all. Overall, the Bison may present a "skinned' appearance. This is easily confused with a strike from worn dies, but on a weak strike the deeper detailing will still be present and the lettering may be sharp and undistorted. On a worn die these details, too, will be weak or lacking. Heavy flow lines and overall moderate to severe die deterioration of the lettering and design elements will be obvious as well on worn dies, ***but note that the Mint mark is still distinct on this weak strike. 8% to 10% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a weak strike.***

THE STRIKE-TYPICAL STRIKE-OBVERSE

THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN AVERAGE EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL STRIKE



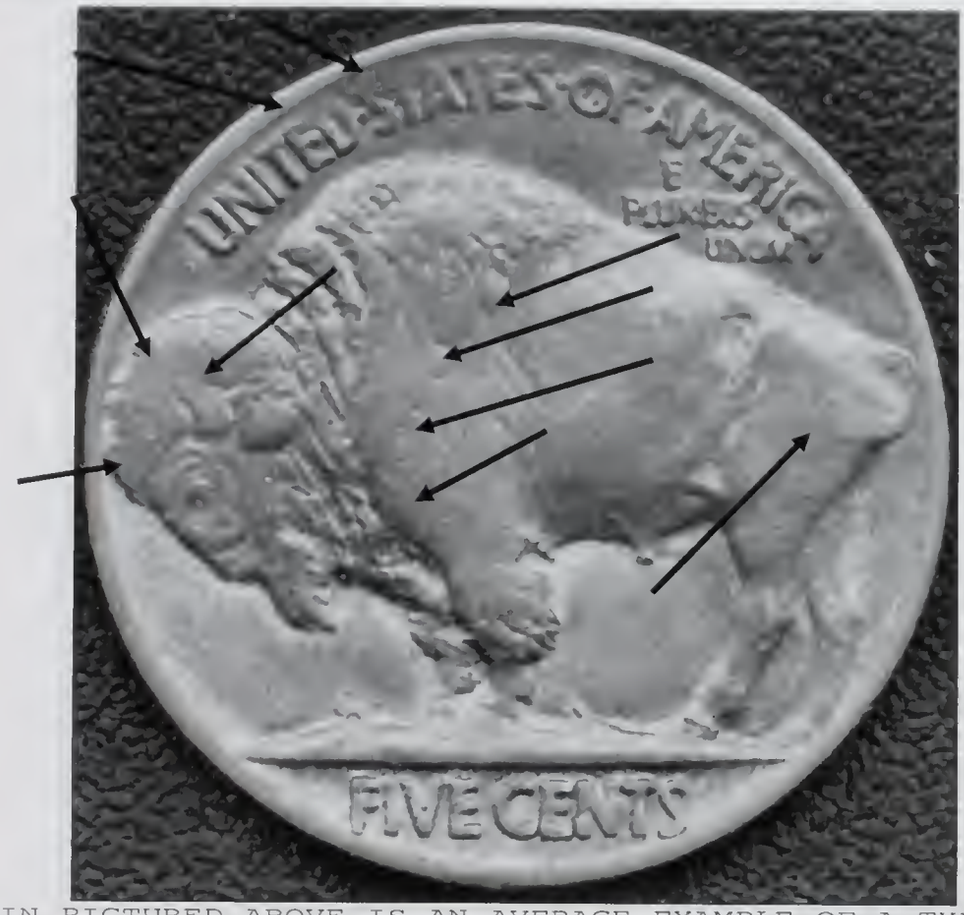
MINIMUM HAIR DETAIL-
TYPICAL STRIKE



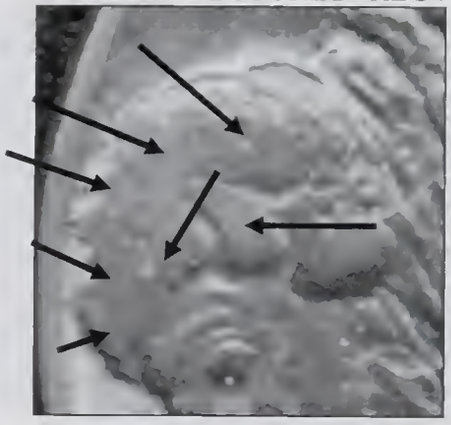
BEST HAIR DETAIL-
TYPICAL STRIKE

The arrows indicate the important parts of the design in determining a typical strike. Of particular importance is the hair detail immediately above the horizontal braid ribbon or knot. The detail here will range from no detail and minimal relief, with a slight merging of the horizontal hairline with the ribbon as on the picture on the left to a trace of the major hairlines, good relief, and a complete separation of the hair from the ribbon as on the picture on the right. The tip of the small feather must show at least some detail, and the date and LIBERTY must be complete, though they might be slightly weak-the date at the bottom of the first two digits and LIBERTY at the tops of the letters adjacent to the rim. The hairline at the cheek and jaw may be incomplete and weak, especially where it crosses the cheek bone. ***40% to 45% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a typical strike.***

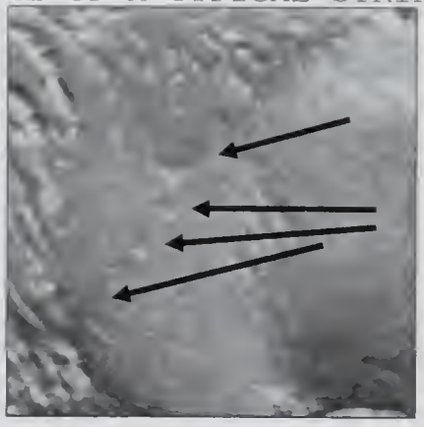
THE STRIKE-TYPICAL STRIKE-REVERSE



THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN AVERAGE EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL STRIKE



HORN FLAT; HAIR DETAIL INCOMPLETE

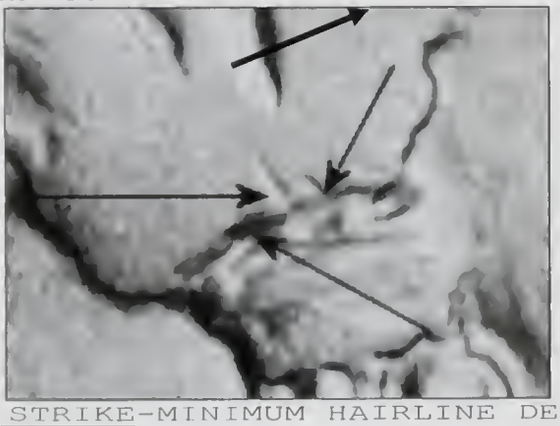


DIAGONAL HAIRLINE WEAK AND INCOMPLETE

The arrows indicate the important parts of the design in determining a typical strike. Of particular importance is the hair and horn detail on the Bison's head and the diagonal hairline from the top of the Bison's back to the upper part of the left foreleg. The Bison's horn should be complete though it may be flat and lack rounded relief detail. The hair detail in front of and around the horn will usually be somewhat weak and largely incomplete but the front of the head should not show significant flatness. The diagonal hairline will be incomplete and weak over much of it's length and especially along the bottom 2/3 where it crosses the shoulder and top of the left foreleg. The facial details may be somewhat blurred and indistinct, and the brush of the tail may not show. The left rear leg may show some weakness, especially at the bottom and the legend and denomination may show some flatness close to the rim. Although a weak Mint mark is more often the result of worn dies, it must be distinct and easily identifiable on a typically struck coin. ***40% to 45%*** *of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a typical strike.*

THE STRIKE-GOOD STRIKE-OBVERSE

THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN ABOVE AVERAGE EXAMPLE OF A GOOD STRIKE



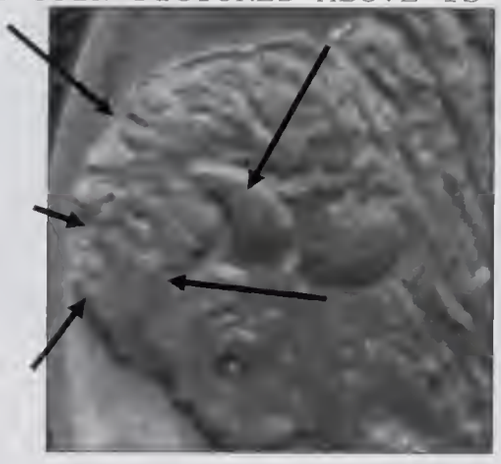
GOOD STRIKE-MINIMUM HAIRLINE DETAIL

GOOD STRIKE-BEST HAIRLINE DETAIL

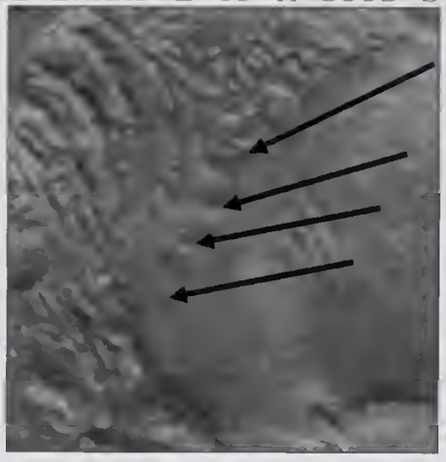
Arrows point to the key parts of the design for a coin to qualify for a good strike. The prime area to examine is the hair detail immediately above the horizontal braid ribbon. At least a small portion of the hairlines should show, as per close up photo #1 above. This area must also be in raised relief-some coins will show a trace of the hairlines but the rest of the relief will be flat. These would qualify only as a typical strike. On the best of the good strikes, the hairline at the far left will be very nearly complete but will show a tiny incomplete spot as indicated on the second close up photo above. This very slight incompleteness is the most common obverse detail that prevents many coins from attaining complete full strike status, even on the proofs. The horizontal hair ribbon must be completely separated from the braid above. Other key places are the small feather, which must be complete or nearly so, especially at the tip; the hairline at the cheek and jaw, which must be at least mostly complete and raised, especially at the cheekbone; and the date and LIBERTY, both of which may show only the most minor weakness closest to the rim. ***45% to 50% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a good strike.***

THE STRIKE-GOOD STRIKE-REVERSE

THE COIN PICTURED ABOVE IS AN ABOVE AVERAGE EXAMPLE OF A GOOD STRIKE



FRONT OF HEAD, HAIRLINE,
HAIR DETAIL, HORN



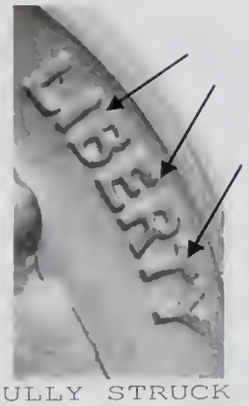
BOTTOM OF DIAGONAL
HAIRLINE ACROSS BISON'S BACK

Arrows point to the key parts of the design for a coin to qualify for a good strike. The hair and horn details must be mostly complete, with some minor lack of detail at the front of the head possible. The horn must show a sharp tip and nearly full or full rounded relief. Most of the diagonal hairline from the top of the back to the top of the left foreleg will show, with minor to moderate lack of detail only along the bottom half. The brush of the tail will be raised though it may not be fully split and the right rear leg will be strong. The legend and denomination may show some slight flatness nearest to the rim. The hairline in front of the horn should also be complete as should the facial details of the Bison. ***45% to 50% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a good strike.***

THE STRIKE-FULL STRIKE-OBVERSE

THREE HAIRLINES ARE COMPLETE

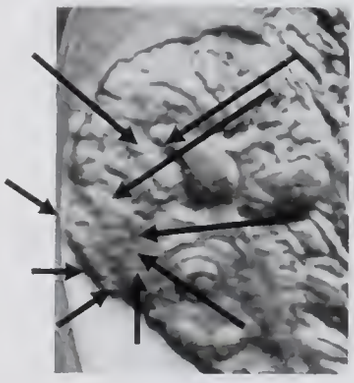
FULLY STRUCK FEATHER TIP



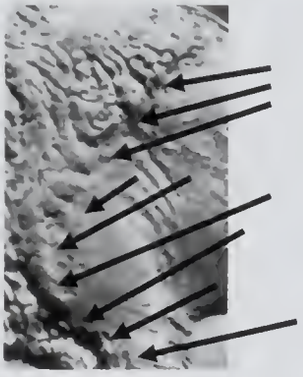
FULLY STRUCK "LIBERTY"

Arrows point to the key parts of the design for a coin to qualify for a full strike. Of prime importance is the hair detail immediately above the horizontal braid ribbon (knot), which, on a fully struck coin will show three complete and unbroken hairlines extending all the way to the top of the ribbon. On the obverse, this area is directly opposite the central shoulder detail of the bison on the reverse-these are the two opposing parts of the design of highest relief. On most dates, this is the most difficult place to find complete detailing-a number of dates are unknown with a full strike here. The 1919 pictured has many of the characteristics of a possible "specimen" strike. Other key areas are: (1) The last 1/3 of the small feather, which must show complete feather lines and a central vein. This is opposite the front of the Bison's head on the reverse. (2) The tip of the large feather, which must be raised and show complete detailing. (3) The date, especially the bottom of the first two digits which must be strong. (4) A fully raised LIBERTY which must be strong and fully struck, especially close to the rim. (5) The hairline where it crosses the cheek bone where it must be strong and complete. ***Less than 3% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole, can be expected to be found with a full strike.***

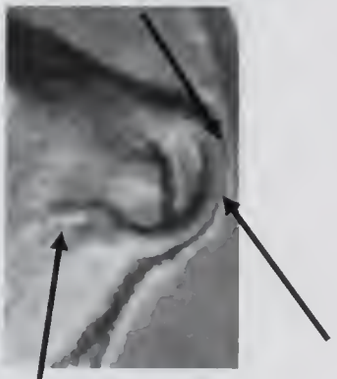
THE STRIKE-FULL STRIKE-REVERSE



HAIR AND HORN DE-TAIL
IS SHARP & COMPLETE INCLUDING AT THE VERY FRONT OF THE HEAD



DIAGONAL HAIRLINE IS FULLY RAISED AND COMPLETE FROM HUMP TO TOP OF LEFT FORELEG



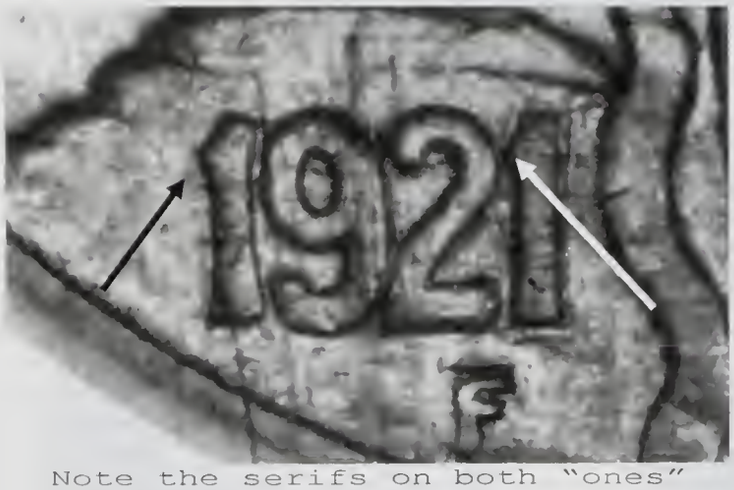
BRUSH OF TAIL IS FULLY SPLIT AND TAIL SHOWS NO FLATNESS NEXT TO RIM

Arrows point to the key parts of the design for a coin to qualify for a full strike. Especially important is the hair and horn detail of the Bison's head, especially at the front of the head closest to the rim which must show all hair detail and no flatness and the bottom third of the diagonal hairline running from the top of the back to the upper part of the left foreleg, where it must be raised and show complete detailing. In addition, the brush of the tail will be raised and show a complete split. All lettering must be sharp and raised, showing no weakness near the rim. The Bison's right rear leg will be strong and complete and the Mint mark will be sharp and clear. The curved part of the tail next to the rim, which is sometimes flatly struck, must show full and complete raised detail. "FIVE CENTS" on the Variety One coins is sometimes also weakly struck. It and all the peripheral lettering on both varieties must show no flatness or weakness, especially next to the rim. ***Less than 3% of the regular issues, for the series as a whole can be expected to be found with a full strike.***

THE STRIKE–THE 1921 ISSUE

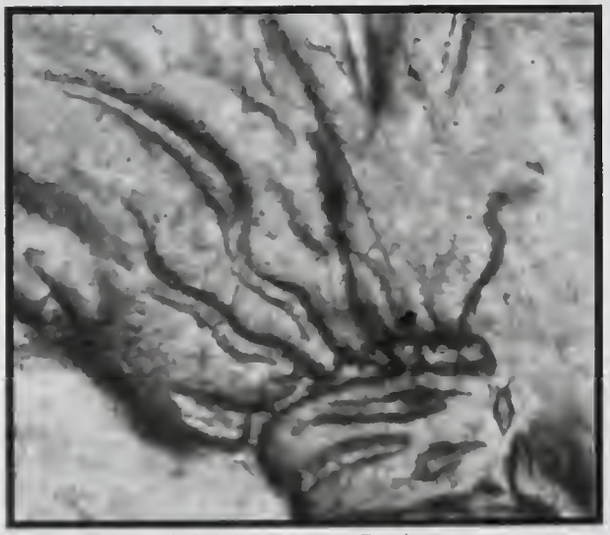
A fully struck 1921-S
courtesy of Heritage Galleries

A fully struck 1923-S
courtesy of Heritage Galleries



Note the serifs on both "ones"

Here there is a lack of a serif



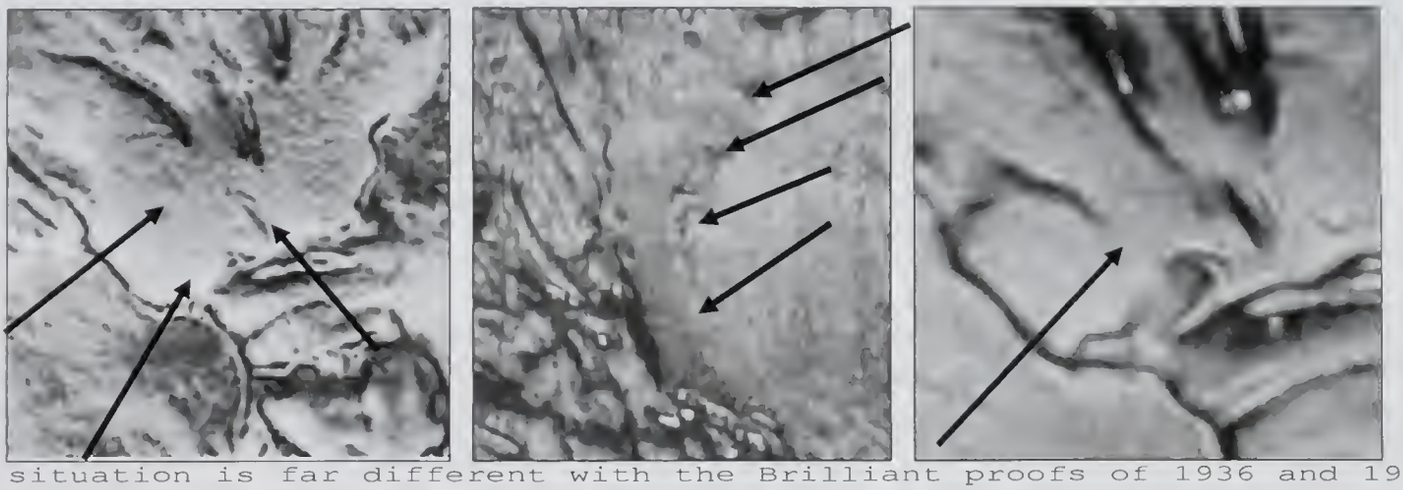
The 1921-P & S issues
(Fully struck 1921-S PICTURED)

The 1923-P & S issues
(Fully struck 1923-S pictured)

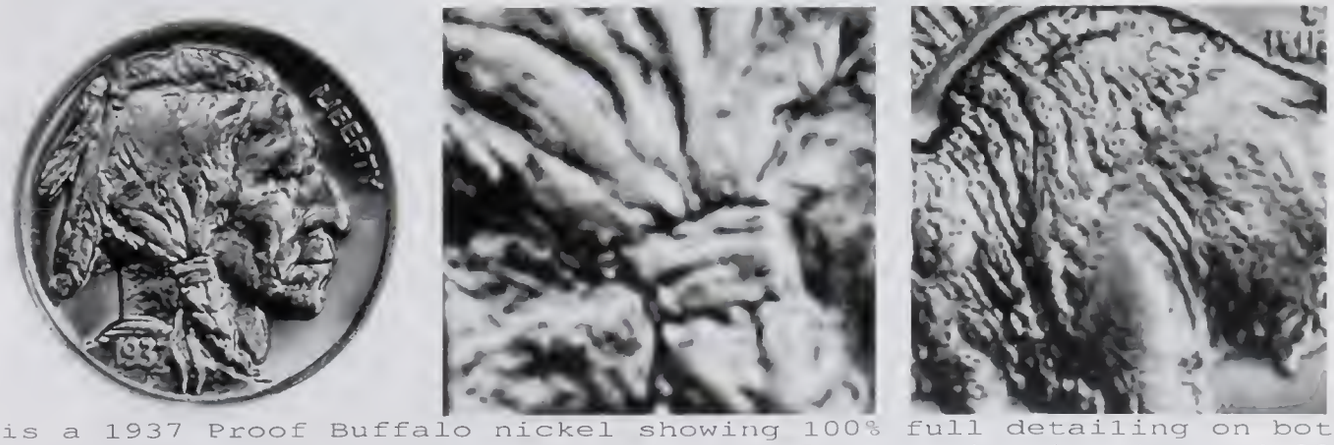
The 1921-P and S present a unique situation on defining the strike on a Buffalo nickel. A *re-worked* master die was used in 1921 but this master die was NOT used for subsequent issues. The hair detail above the braid ribbon is distinctly **different** from all other issues in the series on the 1921-P and S-so much so that ***DATELESS*** 1921 coins can be told from this feature alone. Note the very obvious differences in the configuration and strength of the hairlines. Serifs were also added to the "ones" in the date for this year only. Distinct differences can be seen on the 1921 dimes and quarters from other coins in those series, too.

THE STRIKE-PROOFS

Even the proofs in this series were not immune from incomplete strikes. Pictured first is an example of a fully struck 1916 Matte Proof. Any striking weaknesses with these are very unusual as over 90% of the Matte Proofs as a whole show a full strike. The 1936 Satin Proof is also almost always fully struck. The enlarged photo on the right shows a 1915 Matte proof with the noticeable weakness of the far left hairline above the knot of the braid ribbon.



The situation is far different with the Brilliant proofs of 1936 and 1937, as a significant number of the former and a *majority* of the latter will not show full strikes. The first picture shows only typical strike detail on a 1937 Brilliant proof, where little detail is present above the braid ribbon. While this lack of detail is unusual, it certainly is not unheard of. The picture to the far right shows a more commonly seen strike detail for the 1937 proof issue where only a moderate to slight incompleteness of the far left hairline exists.



Here is a 1937 Proof Buffalo nickel showing 100% full detailing on both the obverse and the reverse. True full strikes form a *minority* (around 30%) of the issue even though it is a proof.

A 1914 MATTE PROOF

Matte Proof Buffalo Nickels can be very difficult to distinguish from a fully struck business or circulation strike coin, especially those that exhibit a matte-like finish–much more so than the similar Matte Proof Lincoln Cents. It is thought that business strike coins that show matte-like surfaces were struck from Matte Proof dies that were no longer suitable for the striking of the proofs themselves.

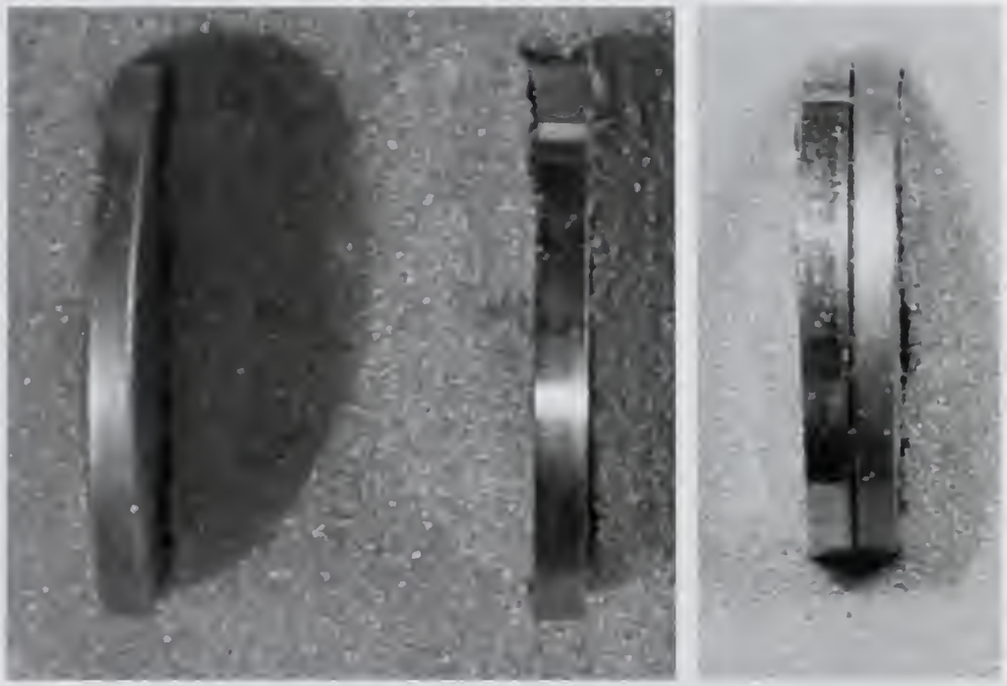
Obv and rev of a 1914 Matte Proof. Note the wide, flat, and sharply defined rims characteristic of the Matte proofs. The inner part of the rim should be sharply divided from the field around its entire circumference. The first few dozen coins struck from the dies will be very dull, almost appearing to be made of plaster or chalk (see page L-30.) It is thought that the proofs of this era were struck on a medal press (per Roger Burdette–"The Renaissance of American Coinage."–also see page L-28.) The uniform thickness and wide rims may be the result of the coins being struck on this press. Proofs will also be totally free of any die clashing whereas most circulation strikes will show some degree of clashing. The wide rims of a matte proof are compared to the more narrow rims of a circulation strike in the images below.

MATTE PROOF RIM

CIRCULATION STRIKE RIM

EDGE CHARACTERISTICS OF A MATTE PROOF

The ***edge*** on the proofs is also distinctive-it will show uniform width (thickness) with little or none of the beveling where it joins the rim which is almost always seen on a circulation strike. The edge of proofs should also have a mirror-like finish.



To illustrate, examine the edge of a modern proof cent or nickel and compare it to a modern business strike. The proof coin will be obviously different and will ***appear*** to be thicker as seen above. The rims will be very sharp where they meet the field. ***Nearly all business strikes will show faint vertical lines all the way around the edge of the coin. Proofs will show none or only a few of these lines and the edge will be mirror like.*** This and the beveling of the edge are illustrated below with the first and last images representing a circulation strike edge showing beveling and many of the edge lines. The center image is a proof edge with uniform thickness around the entire circumference of the coin. A few of these vertical lines can be seen in the photo of this 1937 proof Buffalo nickel. *These edge characteristics are the key to positively identifying the matte proofs.* Thanks to Bert Hinkle for these excellent images.

Circulation strike edge showing beveling

Proof strike edge showing a few of the edge lines

Circulation strike edge showing many of the edge lines

DANIEL CARR 2013-D SILVER ROUND 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO NICKEL

100th anniversary of the Buffalo Nickel. An outstanding silver round by Daniel Carr. The Native American and the Bison are exact duplicates of the originals. It's a shame the U.S. Mint didn't see fit to produce a coin for the same purpose.

A POORLY STRUCK 1914 MATTE PROOF

Compare the strike on this NGC slabbed 1914 Matte Proof Buffalo Nickel with the 1913 shown on the facing page. Such a serious lack of detail above the braid ribbon is very unusual on the Matte Proofs of this series. The coin shown here is the most poorly produced Matte Proof the author has seen, showing no better detail than an average business strike.

IMAGES COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT ON THE 1936 PROOFS

THE 1936 PROOF COINS

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed by collectors over the new proof coins being struck without the mirror-like field and frosted design so much admired in the proofs before 1907. In reply to a request by the editor for a description of the process used on the new coins, the Director of the Mint has sent the following letter:

Your letter of June 13th, relative to proof coins, has been referred to this Bureau for attention. The Superintendent submits the following explanation in regard to the method of preparing proof coins:

Proof coins being struck at the mint at the present time are made in every detail exactly as they have been made in the past, namely, the planchets are carefully selected and each one struck individually on a hydraulic press, and handled so that one coin cannot mar another. The dies are polished to a mirror finish at frequent intervals.

The difference between the recent proofs and those struck in the past is due to the difference in the design and the method used in preparing the master dies. All the present coins are made from sculptured models without retouching with a graver in any way in order to preserve the exact quality and texture of the original sculptor's work. This gives a more or less uneven background with less sharpness in the details. In other words, they are produced the same as small medals might be struck.

The master dies for the gold coins struck previous to 1907, and the silver coins struck prior to 1916, were prepared in the older and entirely different method, being lower in relief and much greater sharpness in detail by re-engraving, even though the original design was reduced from a sculptured model. The inscriptions were usually put in the master dies by means of punches. In addition, they were prepared with a "basined" background or field, that is, the field was polished to a perfect radius on a revolving disc, which again produced a much clearer definition between motif and field, and this gave an entirely different appearance to the coin.

With the present coins, the models were never prepared with the intention of "basining" and it could not be done without many radical alterations in the relief of the present designs.

Very truly yours,

NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS,
Director of the Mint.

It's a current belief that proof coins are/and or were struck twice on a coin press used for circulation strikes. The letter above seems to refute this and verify Roger Burdette's statement in his excellent "Renaissance of American Coinage" series of books that proof coins are struck on a hydraulic press-at least those of the era covered in this book and before. The number of times the coins are struck-one or more-on the hydraulic press is not mentioned.

COMPARISONS-A FULLY STRUCK 1913 VAR 1 MATTE PROOF AND A FULLY STRUCK 1913 VARIETY 1 BUSINESS STRIKE

Pictured on the left is a fully struck 1913 Variety One Matte Proof and on the right a fully struck 1913 Variety One Business Strike showing matte-like surfaces. This second coin was originally thought to be a Matte Proof.

The proofs will show much sharper high point detail when compared to the vast majority of business strikes, as can be seen in the photos. A *very* few business strikes may also show this enhanced high point detail along with a finish that closely resembles that of the Matte Proofs. The true status of such coins must then be determined by the rim and edge characteristics. See page L-24 for a description of these edge and rim details. According to Roger Burdette's excellent book "The Renaissance of American Coinage"-Volume Two, substandard Matte Proofs were released directly into circulation. If so, this would certainly further confuse the situation.

TWO FULLY STRUCK 1916 MATTE PROOF BUFFALOS–MATTE AND "SATIN" FINISH

Two 1916 Proof Buffalo nickels–differences in the proof finish–the full Matte Proof on the left; the so-called Satin Proof on the right. In the author's opinion, the difference in the finish is most likely caused by the die state of the dies, with the flat, dull Matte finish seen only on the earliest die state coins. As the die continued to strike coins they became more and more similar to the satin finish, due to wear on the surfaces of the dies themselves. This process might be compared to the loss of the cameo effect found on proofs minted before the mid 1970s that quickly resulted in a uniformly brilliant coin. These two examples show the 100% full detailing that is typical of almost all Matte Proofs. Every single detail in the dies is present on these two coins. This is the finished product as James Fraser intended it to be. Unfortunately, very few coins other than the proofs will show this kind of detail.

THE STRIKE-PROOFS-1936 SATIN AND 1936 BRILLIANT

1936 TYPE ONE (SATIN) PROOF

Unlike the previously shown 1916 proofs the differences in finish on the 1936 issue was intentional. The Satin Proofs share many of the characteristics of the earlier Matte Proofs. Some, however will show increasingly brilliant surfaces-these are from the later die state of the dies and can show almost what could be called a "hybrid" finish-halfway between the satin and the brilliant. Most of the satin finish coins will show a full strike. The Brilliant Proofs, the 1936 and 1937, on the other hand, will sometimes show a slightly incomplete strike. This is especially true of the 1937 issue, where a significant majority do *not* show a full strike.

1936 TYPE TWO (BRILLIANT) PROOF

THE 1927 SPECIMEN OR SPECIAL STRIKE COIN-OBVERSE

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES.

Obverse of the 1927 Buffalo Nickel designated as a specimen strike by NGC and as a special strike by PCGS. Whatever it's called this is a very special coin. The strike is far supetior to any normal business strike of this date and the surfaces resemble those of the 1936 Satin Proofs. It is thought that only three pieces are currently known. The coin pictured sold for $47,500 in 2009.

THE 1927 SPECIMEN OR SPECIAL STRIKE COIN–REVERSE

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES.

Reverse of the 1927 Specimen Buffalo Nickel. As with the obverse the strike is more detailed than any business strike. Three of these coins were found in the estate of John Sinnock, Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint from 1925 to 1947 and designer of the Roosevelt Dime and Franklin Half Dollar. One possible explanation for their existence is that they were struck to test a new process of chrome plating the dies. One characteristic of this process is "micro cracking" on coins struck from chrome plated dies. All three specimens of the 1927 nickel show this micro cracking.

4 EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESS STRIKE DATES

IMAGES COURTESY OF BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES.

A fully struck earlier die state 1918-D. This date is very rare showing a full strike-fewer than 1% of the coins of this date seen by the author have qualified as a such. Die state often plays just as an important (and usually overlooked) role as the actual strike for many of these coins, especially those from the Branch Mints.

An exceptionally struck early die state 1924-D. The tip of the uppermost feather and the corresponding front portion of the Bison's head are very weak on almost all the coins from this date and Mint. This is one of the dates that the author has yet to see with a full strike. The coin pictured is about as close as they come to FS status-the only area of slight incompleteness is the partially incomplete hairlines above the knot. Die state often plays just as an important role as the actual strike for many of these coins. This ir very evident when comparing the 1924-S that follows with the 1924-S on page L-09.

4 EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESS STRIKE DATES

IMAGES COURTESY OF RANDY BURGESS (TOP) & BOWERS & MERENA GALLERIES

This is perhaps the most extraordinary of the four coins pictured–just a whisper away from a true full strike (only slight incompleteness at the top of the Bison's left foreleg and above the braid knot) and struck from a pair of nearly new dies. It's the best example of this date the author has seen. This coin should be worth a ***HUGE*** premium with a strike and die state like this! Compare this coin with the 1924-S pictured on page L-09. What a difference a set of fresh dies can make! This is the second example of a near full strike the author has seen from this particular set of dies.

Like the 1924-D and 1924-S previously pictured, this very early die state (VEDS) comes as close to a complete strike on a date that's unknown fully struck as any the author has ever seen. It shows just very minor incompleteness immediately above the knot on the obverse. It appears to be 100% fully struck on the reverse. This is a truly amazing 1927-D and should bring a huge premium just for the strike (and die state) alone. Also see the even more extraordinary 1925-D on the next page.

AN EXCESSIVELY RARE FULLY STRUCK 1925-D BUFFALO NICKEL

A most exceptional fully struck 1925-D Buffalo nickel. To date, this is the only full strike of this date the author has seen.

AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF A 1936-S DOUBLE STRUCK BUFFALO NICKEL

A spectacular example of a double struck Buffalo Nickel, rotated 160 degrees between strikes-obverse. Note the date on the top of the head.

The reverse of the coin. It sold on Ebay in February, 2008 for $2,175. Thanks again to David Greene for the excellent photos.

COIN IMAGES COURTESY OF DAVID GREENE.

AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF A 1913 VAR 1 DOUBLE STRUCK BUFFALO NICKEL

Another double struck coin. One of the best examples of a double struck Buffalo Nickel the author has seen. There is a 20%-30% rotation between strikes.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SMYTHE AND COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

PART FOUR

APPENDIX- CHARTS, GRAPHS, & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

TOP 10 BEST STRUCK & TOP 10 WORST STRUCK DATES IN THE SERIES	PAGE M-03
COMPLETE STRIKE STUDY-REGULAR ISSUES	PAGE M-04
COMPLETE STRIKE STUDY-MAJOR VARIETIES	PAGE M-05
THE STRIKE-THE EVOLUTION OF THE DATE	PAGES M-06 THRU M-07
A DATE BY DATE ANALYSIS-STRIKE PERCENTAGES	PAGE M-08
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An encased Buffalo Nickel, encased by F.A. Owen publishing company. This is the second example the author has seen.

TOP 10 BEST STRUCK AND TOP 10 WORST STRUCK DATES IN THE SERIES

THE TOP 10 BEST STRUCK DATES IN THE SERIES

RANK	DATE/MINT		% FULLY STRUCK
01	1921		18.8
02	1913	VARIETY ONE	12.4
03	1913-D	VARIETY ONE	11.4
04	1914-S		5.8
05	1914-D		5.3
06	1913-S	VARIETY ONE	4.5
07	1917-S		4.3
08	1916		3.3
09	1915-S		2.8
10	1917		2.8

THE TOP 10 WORST STRUCK DATES IN THE SERIES

THIS INCLUDES WEAK STRIKES FROM WORN DIES AS WELL AS ACTUAL WEAK STRIKES

RANK	DATE/MINT	% WEAKLY STRUCK
01	1926-D	54.5
02	1918-S	53.2
03	1934-D	45.0
04	1924-D	36.2
05	1925-D	34.7
06	1924-S	33.4
07	1919-S	33.0
08	1925-S	32.4
09	1935-D	31.2
10	1935-S	30.4

20 TOTAL DATES WITH 20% OR GREATER WEAK STRIKES

#1-REGULAR ISSUES (100,000 TOTAL COINS)

This strike study replaces the previous version that was started in 2001 and comprised over 250,000 coins. The quality of most online images (the primary source of images for the study) has greatly improved since then so the author has started a new, more accurate study in a new (and easier to read) format starting May, 2010.

WS-WEAK TS-TYPICAL GS-GOOD FS-FULL >20% WEAK OR <1% FULL HIGHLIGHTED UNKNOWN FS-HIGHLIGHTED

#	DATE	VAR	TOTAL	WS #	%	TS #	%	GS #	%	FS #	%
01	1913	1 ▶▶	8511	36	.4%	470	6%	6952	82%	1052	12%
02	1913-D	1 ▶▶	2244	19	.8%	298	13%	1671	74%	256	11%
03	1913-S	1 ▶▶	1207	29	2%	223	18%	901	75%	54	4%
04	1913	2 ▶▶	3208	156	5%	1661	52%	1313	41%	78	2%
05	1913-D	2 ▶▶	1063	29	3%	644	61%	368	35%	22	2%
06	1913-S	2 ▶▶	906	102	11%	539	59%	259	29%	6	.7%
07	1914	▶▶▶▶▶	2196	218	10%	1253	57%	686	31%	39	2%
08	1914-D	▶▶▶▶▶	863	53	6%	398	46%	366	42%	46	5%
09	1914-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1163	95	8%	518	45%	483	42%	67	6%
10	1915	▶▶▶▶▶	1776	7	.4%	273	15%	1297	73%	199	11%
11	1915-D	▶▶▶▶▶	1285	162	13%	804	63%	301	23%	18	1%
12	1915-S	▶▶▶▶▶	507	3	3%	267	53%	212	42%	14	3%
13	1916	▶▶▶▶▶	3640	80	2%	1262	35%	2178	60%	120	3%
14	1916-D	▶▶▶▶▶	1663	272	16%	801	48%	581	35%	9	.5%
15	1916-S	▶▶▶▶▶	950	162	17%	476	50%	288	30%	24	3%
16	1917	▶▶▶▶▶	1600	46	3%	801	50%	709	44%	44	3%
17	1917-D	▶▶▶▶▶	816	113	14%	427	52%	274	34%	2	.2%
18	1917-S	▶▶▶▶▶	491	59	12%	237	48%	174	35%	21	4%
19	1918	▶▶▶▶▶	882	67	8%	546	62%	260	29%	9	1%
20	1918-D	▶▶▶▶▶	773	207	27%	360	47%	202	26%	4	.5%
21	1918-S	▶▶▶▶▶	524	279	53%	201	38%	44	8%	0	0%
22	1919	▶▶▶▶▶	1594	27	2%	695	44%	851	53%	21	1%
23	1919-D	▶▶▶▶▶	551	125	23%	238	43%	183	33%	5	.9%
24	1919-S	▶▶▶▶▶	636	210	33%	310	49%	114	18%	2	.3%
25	1920	▶▶▶▶▶	1402	177	13%	853	61%	364	26%	8	.6%
26	1920-D	▶▶▶▶▶	514	118	23%	255	50%	137	27%	4	.8%
27	1920-S	▶▶▶▶▶	606	148	24%	350	58%	108	18%	0	0%
28	1921	▶▶▶▶▶	640	8	1%	47	7%	465	73%	120	19%
29	1921-S	▶▶▶▶▶	354	62	18%	64	18%	219	62%	9	3%
30	1923	▶▶▶▶▶	1161	40	3%	572	49%	541	47%	8	.7%
31	1923-S	▶▶▶▶▶	787	216	27%	284	36%	282	36%	5	.6%
32	1924	▶▶▶▶▶	721	25	3%	442	62%	252	34%	2	.2%
33	1924-D	▶▶▶▶▶	475	172	36%	249	54%	54	11%	0	0%
34	1924-S	▶▶▶▶▶	347	116	33%	187	54%	44	13%	0	0%
35	1925	▶▶▶▶▶	1242	71	6%	837	67%	329	26%	5	.4%
36	1925-D	▶▶▶▶▶	470	163	35%	181	39%	125	27%	1	.2%
37	1925-S	▶▶▶▶▶	657	213	32%	303	46%	141	21%	0	0%
38	1926	▶▶▶▶▶	1789	127	7%	1273	71%	384	21%	5	.3%
39	1926-D	▶▶▶▶▶	682	372	55%	230	34%	80	12%	0	0%
40	1926-S	▶▶▶▶▶	491	97	20%	310	63%	84	17%	0	0%
41	1927	▶▶▶▶▶	1784	100	6%	1481	83%	202	11%	1	.06%
42	1927-D	▶▶▶▶▶	517	133	26%	323	62%	61	12%	0	0%
43	1927-S	▶▶▶▶▶	599	43	7%	191	32%	365	61%	0	0%
44	1928	▶▶▶▶▶	1200	103	9%	905	75%	192	16%	0	0%
45	1928-D	▶▶▶▶▶	633	162	26%	370	58%	101	16%	0	0%
46	1928-S	▶▶▶▶▶	584	39	7%	252	43%	289	49%	4	.7%
47	1929	▶▶▶▶▶	1423	348	24%	1022	72%	53	4%	0	0%
48	1929-D	▶▶▶▶▶	618	186	30%	364	59%	68	11%	0	0%
49	1929-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1224	96	8%	684	56%	437	36%	7	.6%
50	1930	▶▶▶▶▶	2086	204	10%	1784	86%	98	5%	0	0%
51	1930-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1266	89	7%	1046	83%	131	10%	0	0%
52	1931-S	▶▶▶▶▶	2126	301	14%	1754	83%	71	3%	0	0%
53	1934	▶▶▶▶▶	1710	154	9%	1231	72%	320	19%	5	.3%
54	1934-D	▶▶▶▶▶	1041	468	45%	505	49%	68	7%	0	0%
55	1935	▶▶▶▶▶	3384	112	3%	1744	52%	1522	45%	6	.02%
56	1935-D	▶▶▶▶▶	1156	361	31%	557	48%	238	21%	0	0%
57	1935-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1327	403	30%	711	54%	213	16%	0	0%
58	1936	▶▶▶▶▶	4611	92	2%	2164	47%	2344	51%	11	.2%
59	1936-D	▶▶▶▶▶	1258	105	8%	674	54%	475	38%	4	.3%
60	1936-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1280	53	4%	346	27%	879	69%	2	.2%
61	1937	▶▶▶▶▶	5329	63	1%	2784	52%	2465	46%	17	.3%
62	1937-D	▶▶▶▶▶	2767	106	5%	1331	49%	1329	45%	1	.04%
63	1937-S	▶▶▶▶▶	1676	2	.1%	403	24%	1263	75%	8	.5%
64	1938-D	▶▶▶▶▶	9013	13	.01%	1013	11%	7818	87%	169	2%
AVERAGE-REGULAR ISSUES				WS 8.4%		TS 43.8%		GS 45.3%		FS 2.5%	

DATE OF THIS STUDY-10-09-2013★★★★★★NOT SEEN FS-19/64 29.6%

#2-MAJOR VARIETIES (1,934)

*=DIES #01 & #02 (1914 4/3 & 1938-D D/S)

WS-WEAK TS-TYPICAL GS-GOOD FS-FULL >20% WEAK OR <1% FULL HIGHLIGHTED UNKNOWN FS-HIGHLIGHTED

#	DATE	VAR	TOTAL	WS #	%	TS #	%	GS #	%	FS #	%
01a	1913	3HL	13	0	0%	0	0%	6	46%	7	54%
07a	1914	4/3*	294	85	29%	160	54%	49	17%	0	0%
13a	1916	1-O-V	105	5	5%	61	58%	39	37%	0	0%
16a	1917	1-R-IV	13	0	0%	6	46%	7	54%	0	0%
17a	1917-D	3HL	32	11	34%	15	47%	6	19%	0	0%
20a	1918-D	8/7	261	62	24%	106	41%	93	36%	0	0%
39a	1926-D	3HL	20	6	30%	13	65%	1	5%	0	0%
42a	1927-D	3HL	24	7	29%	17	71%	0	0%	0	0%
55a	1935	1-R-IV	126	3	2%	107	85%	16	13%	0	0%
59a	1936-D	3HL	66	0	0%	61	92%	●	8%	0	0%
62a	1937-D	3L	482	20	4%	233	48%	229	48%	0	0%
64a	1938-D	D/S*	423	0	0%	57	13%	357	84%	9	2%
AVERAGE-MAJOR VARIETIES				WS 10.3%		TS 45.0%		GS 43.8%		FS .8%	

NOT SEEN FS- 10/12 83.3%

AVERAGE-REGULAR ISSUES + MAJOR VARIETIES (TOTAL 101,934 COINS)

WS 8.5% TS 43.8% GS 45.3% FS 2.5%

#3-PROOFS AND SPECIMENS (4,220 TOTAL COINS)

#	DATE	VAR	TOTAL	WS #	%	TS #	%	GS #	%	FS #	%
01PR	1913-1	MATTE	301	0	0%	0	0%	12	4%	289	96%
04PR	1913-2	MATTE	237	0	0%	1	.4%	29	12%	207	87%
07PR	1914	MATTE	416	0	0%	2	.5%	68	12%	366	88%
10PR	1915	MATTE	378	0	0%	0	0%	23	6%	355	94%
13PR	1916	MATTE	117	0	0%	0	0%	6	5%	111	95%
41SP	1927	SPEC	2	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%
58PR	1936	SATIN	561	0	0%	0	0%	68	12%	493	88%
58PR	1936	BRILL	563	0	0%	0	0%	226	40%	337	60%
61PR	1937	BRILL	1645	0	0%	12	.7%	1113	68%	520	32%
AVERAGE-PROOFS				WS 0.0%		TS 0.4%		GS 36.1%		FS 63.5%	

REGULAR ISSUES

PREVIOUS-TOT #- 47483
CURRENT TOT #-100000

WS-# 4623 9.7% TS-#20256 42.7% GS-#21250 44.8% FS-# 1354 2.9%
WS-# 8428 8.4% TS-#43778 43.8% GS-#45280 45.3% FS-# 2514 2.5%

****

TOP 12 VARIETIES

PREVIOUS-TOT #- ----
CURRENT TOT #- 1682

WS-# 182 11.0% TS-# 720 42.8% GS-# 765 45.4% FS-# 15 0.9%
WS-# 199 10.3% TS-# 871 45.0% GS-# 848 43.8% FS-# 16 0.8%

****

REG ISSUES+VARIETIES

PREVIOUS-TOT #- 49165
CURRENT TOT #-101934

WS-# 4805 9.8% TS-#20976 42.7% GS-#22015 44.8% FS-# 1369 2.8%
WS-# 8627 8.5% TS-#44649 43.8% GS-#46128 45.3% FS-# 2530 2.5%

****

PROOFS

PREVIOUS-TOT #- 4202
CURRENT TOT #- 4202

TS-# 15 0.4% GS-# 1525 36.1% FS-# 2680 63.5%
TS-# 15 0.4% GS-# 1525 36.1% FS-# 2680 63.5%

TOP 10 LEAST FREQUENTLY SEEN

01	1924-S	347	06	1926-S	491
02	1921-S	354	07	1915-S	507
03	1925-D	470	08	1920-D	514
04	1924-D	475	09	1927-D	517
05	1917-S	491	10	1918-S	524

THE EVOLUTION OF THE DATE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE DATE

Each date in the series (54 coins) is pictured on the opposite page to illustrate how the characteristics of the date-the shape, strength, and positioning of the numerals-changed from year to year and from decade to decade. The Buffalo nickel certainly showed at least as much variance in the date style (and maybe more) as any other 20th century design. Factors such as strike and die state can also significantly affect the appearance of numbers and letters on a coin, with an advance in die state almost always resulting in thicker and less distinct characters, but this shouldn't alter the original shape of the digit to any large degree. The depth at which the date was entered into the master die almost certainly played a large part in this variance, but certain dates are of a completely different style from the use of completely different characters. A date by date synopsis follows.

1913 Var One Pattern-J1951-This is one of two patterns for the year of the Variety One design. The numerals are *VERY* thin and the "3" has a round top rather than the subsequently used flat top "3" seen on the other pattern and on the regular issue of the date. It is thought that these very thin numerals were hand cut into the die, necessitated by complaints from the Hobbs Vending Machine Co.

1913 Var One and Var Two-The Numerals were shallowly impressed in the master die, resulting in a lower relief and delicate date that was prone to very rapid wear. Some coins graded as high as Fine 15 will have a date that is barely discernable. The lower "1" and "9" will often show moderate to severe weakness.

1914-The date is now in very slightly higher relief and a little more resistant to obliteration.

1915-Thicker digits in noticeably higher relief make this date more resistant to wear. This is the first significant change in the date style for the series.

1916-This date shows a return to the very thin, delicate date similar to the 1913 and, like the 1913 the resultant weakness of the date may be seen in as high of grade as Fine. All four numerals are of a distinctly different configuration than the previous year.

1917-This date marks a return to the thinner date of 1914. It is slightly more resistant to wear than the 1916.

1918-As the previous.

1919-As the previous.

1920-The 1920 has the thin, delicate numbers similar to those seen on the 1916. This could be the result of a lighter impression into the master die rather than a deliberate date style change.

1921-In the author's opinion this date shows the most distinct change in date style of the entire series. Note the obvious serifs on the "ones" in the date. It marks a very noticeable one year type-not seen previous to or after 1921. Other details of the obverse die are unique to this date as mentioned and illustrated earlier in the text.

1923-Here we have a return to the pre-1921 date style. This is the first date that shows some alteration of the ribbon tie next to the last digit of the date. The "3" in the date is entirely different than the "3" on the 1913 a decade earlier.

1924-As the previous except for the ribbon tie which is once again intact. The last digit of the date differs, to one degree or another, and on each date from the corresponding digit used during the previous decade-least so on the 1929.

1925-As the previous but the entire date and especially the first two digits of the date are often very weak on the finished coin. This apparently necessitated an entire re-working of the obverse die in 1926. The "5" of the date is distinctly different than the "5" used in the previous decade.

1926-On this date we see the third major change in date style. Note how the final digit of the date now lies on top of, rather than next to, the ribbon tie on the left. And it is completely different from the "6" used ten years earlier as well. The style of the "2" of the date has also been changed-this would be used for the rest of the decade.

1927-As the previous, also with a different final digit than used in the 'teens.

1928-As the previous and with a MUCH differently configured "8" than used in 1918.

1929-The last digit of the date has been moved to the right, showing an increased distance from the "2".

1930-The "3" now has a round top rather than the flat top used in 1913 and 1923. This would continue to be the case through the end of the series in 1938 but the "3" would be modified several times in other ways.

1931-The entire date is now thicker, heavier, and in higher relief and with a much different "3".

1934-About the same relief as used in 1931 but both the "9" and "3" are much different. The "4" is considerably different that used either in 1914 or 1924. The author has seen an ***altered 1934-D offered as a 1914-D***. This alteration was very easy to spot not only by the wide space between the "9" and the altered "1" but by this difference in the last digit of the date from the 1914.

1935-The date now appears slightly thinner than the previous but this may be due to a less forceful entry into the master die as everything else seems to be nearly identical.

1936-Close in style to the 1935 but there are slight differences in the "9" and the "3". On most coins horizontal guide lines can be seen above and below the date, the only date in the series that shows this.

1937-The entire date is now thicker and shows higher relief than is seen in previous years. The "9" and "3" show some differences as well.

1938-The entire date was changed for this last year of the Buffalo Nickel. The narrow "3" resembles the one used in 1931 and the "8" shows a major modification-the third time this digit shows a radical change from it's predecessors.

AVERAGE-ALL DATES
REGULAR ISSUES
(TOTAL-100,000 COINS)

WS- 8.4%
TS-43.8%
GS-45.3%
FS- 2.5%

AVERAGE
12 MAJOR VARIETIES
(TOTAL-1,934 COINS)

WS-10.3%
TS-45.0%
GS-43.8%
FS- 0.8%

The strike percentage totals for the varieties as a whole are somewhat inaccurate due to the high percentage of well struck 1937-D 3 Legged and 1938-D D/S coins.

A SAMPLE PAGE FROM THE STRIKE STUDY RECORD

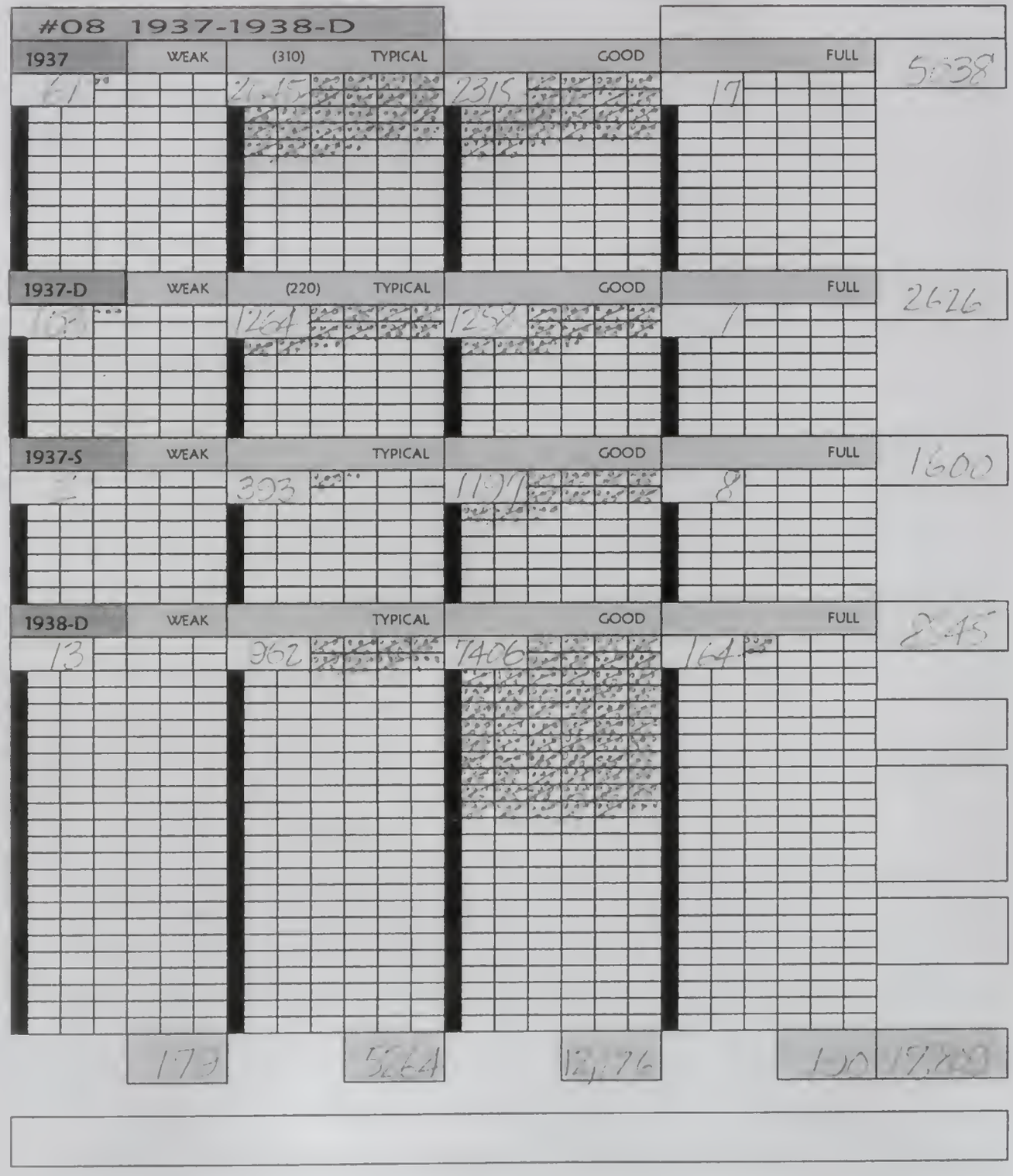
REGULAR ISSUES-BASE DATE-07-27-01 EBAY 866-540-3229 | #01 1913-1913-S

CURRENT DATE 8-[illegible]-13 TT-07-23 DLRC-[illegible]15

	WEAK	(580) TYPICAL	GOOD	FULL	
1913-1	36	444	653	1004	8014
1913-D-1	19	282	1585	239	2125
1913-S-1	38	213	853	53	1147
1913-2	147	(250) 1565	1227	73	3012
1913-D-2	29	611	347	22	1009
1913-S-2	98	526	247	6	877
	357	3641	10,782	1397	16,184

Pictured here and on the next page is an image of the word document used by the author to record the observed coins from the internet for the strike study seen in this book.

A SAMPLE PAGE FROM THE STRIKE STUDY RECORD

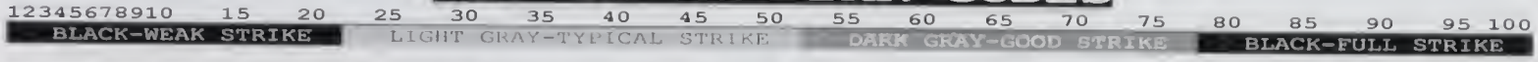


A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS
REGULAR ISSUES 1913

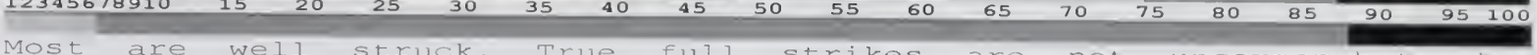
WS=WEAK STRIKE TS=TYPICAL STRIKE GS=GOOD STRIKE **FS=FULL STRIKE**
ITALIC-NO FULL STRIKE IS KNOWN

BASED ON THE AUTHOR'S OBSERVATION OF OVER 100,000 COINS ON THE INTERNET SINCE 2001 AND FROM OTHER PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OVER THE PAST 50+ YEARS

KEY TO THE BAR CODES

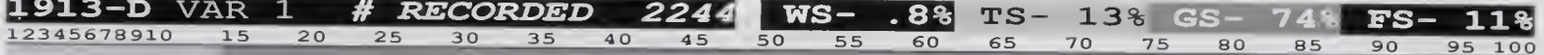


1913-P VAR 1 ***# RECORDED 8511*** **WS- .4%** TS- 6% **GS- 82%** **FS- 12%**



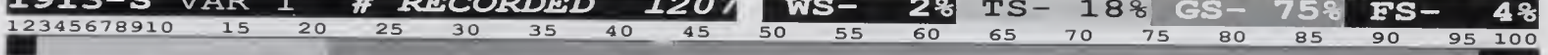
Most are well struck. True full strikes are not uncommon-but when incomplete strikes are found the incompleteness is usually restricted to the tip of the small (uppermost) feather on the obverse and the corresponding reverse area at the very front of the Bison's head. This small, localized lack of detail is what prevents most dates from achieving a full strike, though this date sometimes shows moderate to considerable peripheral weakness in the date and lettering, too. Exceptional business strikes are *VERY* easily confused with the scarce matte proofs. The dates on all the 1913 issues, both Var. 1 and Var. 2 wore off very quickly as the date was very shallowly impressed into the master die, making low grade coins with a readable date elusive. This problem was corrected somewhat in 1914 with the introduction of slightly heavier date numerals.

1913-D VAR 1 ***# RECORDED 2244*** **WS- .8%** TS- 13% **GS- 74%** **FS- 11%**



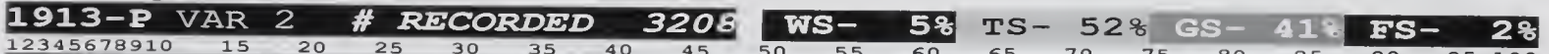
Shares many of the strike characteristics with it's Philadelphia Mint counterpart, but it's seen with the strike weakness at the tip of the uppermost feather and the corresponding area of the front of the Bison's head with more frequency. A very few incredibly struck coins-as nice as any matte proof-are seen from time to time. One such coin is pictured on page L-13 of this book. A few 1914-S, 1915-S, and 1916-S coins are very occasionally found with these surface and strike characteristics as well.

1913-S VAR 1 ***# RECORDED 1207*** **WS- 2%** TS- 18% **GS- 75%** **FS- 4%**



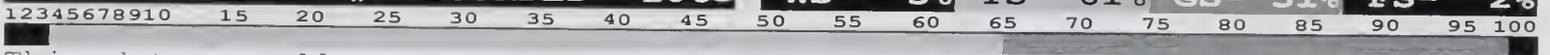
This date tends to show "mushy" detailing even though the strike can be good or even full. Peripheral weakness, especially on the obverse, is commonly seen.

1913-P VAR 2 ***# RECORDED 3208*** **WS- 5%** TS- 52% **GS- 41%** **FS- 2%**



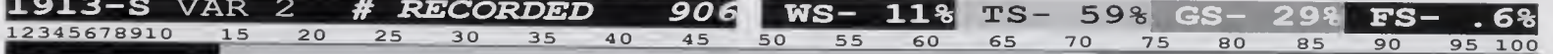
Not typically as well struck as the Var. One, especially at the center of the coin-directly above the horizontal braid ribbon (knot) on the obverse and on the bison's shoulder on the reverse. These two areas will be mentioned frequently throughout the text. They, along with the Bison's head, horn, and shoulder detail are the key places to determine a full strike for most dates. Full strikes are relatively available for this date.

1913-D VAR 2 ***# RECORDED 1063*** **WS- 3%** TS- 61% **GS- 31%** **FS- 2%**



This date usually comes with an adequate strike. True full strikes are not especially rare. When weakness is seen, it is usually restricted to the central areas of the coin.

1913-S VAR 2 ***# RECORDED 906*** **WS- 11%** TS- 59% **GS- 29%** **FS- .6%**



It is much more poorly produced than either the P or D coins. Peripheral weakness is common, as are very weak central details. True full strikes are elusive.

1914-P ***# RECORDED 2196*** **WS- 10%** TS- 57% **GS- 31%** **FS- 2%**

Surprisingly, the P Mint coin is the toughest of the three Mints to locate with a full strike for the year, though full strikes are of no great rarity. This is an unusual situation with this series, (other examples would be the 1927-S, 1928-S, 1929-S, 1930-S, 1936-S, and 1937-S) as it is almost always the branch Mint dates that suffer from strike deficiencies. The date was strengthened slightly on the master die in an attempt to improve the wearing qualities of it.

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS

REGULAR ISSUES 1914-D THRU 1918

1914-D # RECORDED 863 WS- 6% TS- 46% GS- 42% FS- 5%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Usually well struck, with good or full detailing everywhere. Finding a true full strike for this date should not present a serious problem.

1914-S # RECORDED 1163 WS- 6% TS- 45% GS- 42% FS- 6%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Most often seen with a good strike. Full strikes are very close in frequency to the '14-D; rarely, both dates can display an incredible full strike and/or matte-like or proof-like surfaces and, sometimes, an extremely deep, full strike equal to that of any real matte proof.

1915-P # RECORDED 1776 WS- .4% TS- 15% GS- 73% FS- 14%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

One of the best produced dates in the entire series-almost without exception it comes with an excellent strike; even late die state coins are rare. Full strikes are sometimes confused with the Matte Proof issue for the year. The date shows slightly stronger, thicker numerals than the 1914.

1915-D # RECORDED 1285 WS- 13% TS- 63% GS- 23% FS- 1%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

This date usually comes with an adequate strike. True full strikes are very occasionally seen, as are those with a near total lack of central detail.

1915-S # RECORDED 507 WS- 3% TS- 53% GS- 42% FS- 4%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Typical to good strikes are expected for this date. True full strikes are occasionally seen, similar to the previous date. A few will show an incredible full strike, some with matte-like or proof-like surfaces.

1916-P # RECORDED 3640 WS- 2% TS- 35% GS- 60% FS- .5%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Well struck coins are common and should be expected. Full strikes are easily obtained. Thinner date numerals were once again used on the master die for this year, which worsened the wearing quality of the date.

1916-D # RECORDED 1663 WS- 16% TS- 48% GS- 35% FS- .5%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Very weak strikes with a total lack of central detail start to show up with some frequency commencing with this date, but full strikes are available. It sometimes shows weakness at the front of the Bison's head.

1916-S # RECORDED 950 WS- 17% TS- 50% GS- 30% FS- 3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Nearly identical to the previous "D" Mint coin in strike quality, but a little more frequently seen with a true full strike. Exceptionally struck coins, resembling a Matte proof in strike and with granular surfaces are very occasionally seen.

1917-P # RECORDED 1600 WS- 3% GS- 44% FS- 3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The typical coin comes with a good strike. True full strikes can be found occasionally. A possible specimen striking may exist-these should show a deep, full strike far superior to even the best business strikes but none have been certified as such and the actual existence of such coins is very questionable. The date was strengthened very slightly to improve it's wearing abilities.

1917-D # RECORDED 816 WS- 14% TS- 49% GS- 35% FS- .2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Many will show weak central detail as well as a poor and often incomplete strike at the front of the Bison's head, but well struck coins are not of great rarity. True full strikes are very rare.

1917-S # RECORDED 491 WS- 12% TS- 48% GS- 35% FS- 4%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Usually shows a typical to good strike, though the strike weaknesses present for the Denver issue are repeated with this coin-but to a less severe degree.

1918-P # RECORDED 882 WS- 8% TS- 62% GS- 29% FS- 1%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Sometimes shows a serious lack of central detail on both obverse and reverse, but well struck coins can be found with some persistence. True full strikes are difficult to find.

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS

REGULAR ISSUES 1918-D THRU 1921

1918-D # RECORDED 773 WS- 27% TS- 47% GS- 26% FS- .5%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Serious strike deficiencies exist on a significant number of this date. Central weakness on both the obverse and reverse is most commonly seen, but a lack of hair and horn detail on the Bison's head is also not uncommon. Full strikes are very rare.

1918-S # RECORDED 524 WS- 53% TS- 36% GS- 8% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

In the opinion of the author, this date is the most poorly produced coin in the entire series when the *STRIKE* (not the use of worn, eroded dies) is the consideration. Many will show absolute flatness and a total lack of any detail at the centers of both the obverse and the reverse. Many are struck from multiply clashed and badly cracked dies. True full strikes are currently unknown to the author, but a very few may exist.

1919-P # RECORDED 1594 WS- 2% TS- 44% GS- 53% FS- 1%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The typical coin comes with a good strike. True full strikes can be found occasionally. A possible specimen striking exists-these should show a deep, full strike far superior to even the best business strikes (one such coin has been seen by the author and is pictured in the strike section-it is more convincing than any purported 1917 "Matte Proof" the author has ever seen) but none have been certified as such. Once again the date was strengthened to improve it's wearing abilities.

1919-D # RECORDED 551 WS- 23% TS- 43% GS- 33% FS- .9%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

This date has an apparently undeserved reputation as one of the most poorly struck coins in the series. While it does indeed have it's share of poor strikes, well struck coins and even full strikes don't seem to be the great rarities claimed. Good strikes are often available; full strikes are not unheard of and seem to be more often seen than most other branch Mint dates of the period.

1919-S # RECORDED 636 WS- 33% TS- 49% GS- 18% FS- .3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Much tougher to find well struck than the previous; true full strikes are virtually unknown. Often seen struck from badly eroded dies (especially the reverse) this is the first date in the series to be seriously plagued by this problem-one that continues into the 1930's. These eroded die weaknesses are more often seen than are actual weak strikes-a condition repeatedly seen throughout the series from this point forward and lasting through the 1935 D and S coins.

1920-P # RECORDED 1402 WS- 13% TS- 61% GS- 26% FS- .6%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Most show no better than a typical strike. Well struck coins are also sometimes seen, but true full strikes are rare.

1920-D # RECORDED 514 WS- 23% TS- 50% GS- 27% FS- .8%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Coins struck from badly eroded dies exist in large numbers, but this seems to be another overrated strike rarity, though not as overrated as the 1919-D. Well struck coins can be located with some effort; full strikes are of considerable rarity but several do exist.

1920-S # RECORDED 606 WS- 24% TS- 58% GS- 18% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It's as bad as-maybe even worse-in overall strike quality than the 1919-S with a very large percentage struck from badly eroded reverse (and sometimes obverse) dies. As with the 1919-S, these are more often seen than actual weak strikes, but, unlike the 1919-S a full strike for this date has yet to be seen by the author.

1921 # RECORDED 330 WS- 1% TS- 7% GS- 73% FS- 19%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The obverse master die was ***reworked*** in 1921-this can be easily seen by the distinctly different date style and hair detail directly above the horizontal braid ribbon. For this reason, a very large percentage of this date-the highest in the series-will show a complete, full strike. Only two weak strikes have been recorded, and even a typically struck coin is somewhat unusual.

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS

REGULAR ISSUES 1921-S THRU 1925-S

1921-S # RECORDED 354 WS- 18% TS- 18% GS- 62% FS- 3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The reworked obverse master die allows for a small number of full obverse strikes for this date. The reverse, however, sometimes will show the same die erosion and general weakness seen on other dates of the period, though well struck coins do exist in quantity. When seen with incomplete detailing, it is almost always the result of a worn reverse die. Various planchet problems, especially moderate to severe laminations, seem plague this date.

1923-P # RECORDED 1161 WS- 3% TS- 49% GS- 47% FS- .7%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

A well produced issue; good strikes are typical for the date. Weak strikes are seldom seen, while full strikes are above average in availability for "P" Mint coins of the era.

1923-S # RECORDED 787 WS- 27% TS- 36% GS- 36% FS- .6%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It has it's share of coins struck from badly eroded reverse dies, but well struck coins are not the great rarities often claimed. Even full strikes, though rare, are very occasionally available.

1924-P # RECORDED 721 WS- 3% TS- 62% GS- 34% FS- .2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

A large majority can be classified as typically struck, but well struck coins are not particularly rare. True full strikes are *very* hard to find.

1924-D # RECORDED 250 WS- 36% TS- 54% GS- 11% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Almost always weak at the very front of the Bison's head and the corresponding tip of the uppermost feather on the obverse. The few that do show complete detailing at the front of the head invariably will show incompleteness elsewhere, usually in the hair details above the braid ribbon and/or the hair details on the Bison's shoulder. No true full strike for this date has been seen by the author, though one coin came very close-see page L-32.

1924-S # RECORDED 347 WS- 33% TS- 54% GS- 13% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

This is yet another date where a true full strike probably does not exist, though a very few coins come close. Many are seen struck from the usual badly eroded reverse die that is so typical of the branch Mint coins of this era. Some are so bad the coin will show no better than Good or Very good detail even they are technically AU or Mint state in grade. This date is probably *THE* most notorious when it comes to VF and XF coins not "making the grade" when advertised as such, even when certified. The 1921-S and 1926-S are also famous in this regard; in fact, this is a major problem with all the branch Mint dates from the late 'teens to the mid 'twenties. A true XF coin with a full, rounded horn showing raised relief is a truly rare coin.

1925-P # RECORDED 1242 WS- 6% TS- 67% GS- 26% FS- .4%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It appears that by this time the master hub, especially the obverse, had lost much of it's fine detailing with the result that all coins from all three Mints present a generally "mushy" or blurred appearance to one degree or another (even full strikes aren't sharp) and the first two digits of the date are often very weak. Full strikes-to the limit of the detail remaining in the master hub-can sometimes be found, though they are rare.

1925-D # RECORDED 470 WS- 35% TS- 39% GS- 27% FS- .2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The same comments apply to this coin as the "P" Mint coin above. A single full strike ***has*** been seen by the author for this date (see page L-34.) Worn out reverse *and* obverse dies are very commonly seen, as are those lacking detail due to an actual weak strike.

1925-S # RECORDED 657 WS- 32% TS- 46% GS- 16% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The same comments apply to this date as to the previous two dates. Full strikes are currently unknown, though a few may exist (but with the limitations mentioned above for the "P" and "D" coins.) As with the Denver Mint coin, pieces struck from worn, eroded reverse *and* obverse dies are commonplace, as are actual weak strikes.

1926-P # RECORDED 1785 WS- 7% TS- 71% GS- 21% FS- .3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Apparently the master hub was reworked and touched up in 1926 to strengthen the fine detail that had been lost. The date is larger and the numerals are thicker than in previous years and the last digit of the date now lies on top of, rather than to the left of the ribbon tie closest to the date. All other details, especially on the obverse, are sharper. In spite of these changes, most 1926 nickels show only an average strike but lack the "mushiness" seen in the previous year. A few coins will show an exceptional strike, almost like a proof.

1926-D # RECORDED 682 WS- 55% TS- 34% GS- 12% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The bad reputation this date has in regard to strike is ***much*** more the result of worn, badly eroded, late state dies than an actual deficiency of the strike, unlike the situation seen for the 1918-S and some other earlier dates. Some actual Mint state coins will show no better than Good to VG detailing on the reverse, much like the 1924-S, and some will show a blob of a Mint mark that is nearly impossible to verify as either a "D" or an "S." Mint mark position must then be used to verify the proper Mint on such coins. Living up to it's bad reputation for poorly produced coins, the '26-D is number one in the series, percentage wise, for incomplete detailing.

1926-S # RECORDED 491 WS- 20% TS- 63% GS- 17% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Counter to it's reputation, it often comes with a decent strike-a trend that occurs for the next four years with the San Francisco issues. A good number are found struck from worn dies, but not to the extent or degree of previous years. Horn and hair detail on the head of the Bison are usually present, but not sharp-few coins show an incomplete horn due to the strike. It's very doubtful that a true full strike exists for this date.

1927-P # RECORDED 1784 WS- 6% TS- 83% GS- 11% FS-.06%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

True full strikes are MUCH rarer than would be expected-only a few may exist-(the author has seen only a single fully struck coin.) Typical strikes predominate, but well struck coins can be found with some effort. The specimen strike pieces show full, sharp details-better than any business strike and comparable to the matte and satin proofs, and will show somewhat atypical surfaces. Only three of this last coin are currently known-all found in the estate of former chief engraver John Sinnock.

1927-D # RECORDED 517 WS- 26% TS- 62% GS- 12% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Most fall into the typical strike range; a true full strike has not been seen by the author. Often seen with a complete lack of central detail and struck from the eroded dies used on the branch Mint issues so frequently seen during this time period. This date is one of the major strike rarities in the series and is often greatly underrated as such.

1927-S # RECORDED 599 WS- 7% TS- 32% GS- 61% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

This is a generally well produced issue-much better that it's Denver Mint counterpart, it is usually seen well struck and from dies in decent condition, though coins struck from worn dies do exist in some quantity.

1928-P # RECORDED 1200 WS- 9% TS- 75% GS- 16% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The same can be said for this date as the 1927-almost word for word except, with this date, the author hasn't seen a true full strike. Like many of the coins from the late '20's into the early '30's it is an unrecognized full strike rarity.

1928-D # RECORDED 633 WS- 26% TS- 58% GS- 16% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Often seen with a very substandard strike, though well struck coins exist in sizeable numbers. This is yet another date that has not been seen with a full strike.

1928-S # RECORDED 584 WS- 7% TS- 43% GS- 49% FS- .9%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

A generally well produced coin, often found,with a good strike even though some of these are from late state dies. Sometimes seen struck from a badly eroded reverse die. Really weak *strikes* are unusual.

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS
REGULAR ISSUES 1929 THRU 1935

1929-P # RECORDED 1423 WS- 24% TS- 72% GS- 4% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It's doubtful if this coin exists with a fully struck obverse-even the best struck coins usually don't come close, showing far from complete detailing at the hair braid directly above the horizontal ribbon. Some have a total lack of detail there-even well struck coins are difficult to find. This date is probably the most poorly produced Philadelphia Mint coin in the series. It sometimes does show full details on the reverse. This date would be a ***great rarity*** if it was ever found with a full strike on ***both*** sides.

1929-D # RECORDED 618 WS- 30% TS- 59% GS- 11% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It often comes very poorly struck, especially on the reverse. This date has one of the highest percentages of weak strikes in the series, with many weak due to the *strike* rather than to die erosion.

1929-S # RECORDED 1224 WS- 9% TS- 56% GS- 36% FS- .6%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

By far the best struck of the three Mints for the year. A little less than half will show a good strike.

1930-P # RECORDED 2086 WS- 10% TS- 86% GS- 5% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Like the 1929, this would be a tremendous rarity with a true full strike if one ever turns up. It currently has not been seen with such a strike. Well struck coins are a little more frequently seen than for the 1929 but are still scarce. Once again the problem is found in the hair detail above the braid ribbon, with just typical detail found there while, at the same time, the same coin can show a fully detailed reverse.

1930-S # RECORDED 1266 WS- 7% TS- 83% GS- 10% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Generally a little better struck than the Philadelphia issue, but, as with that date a true full strike has yet to be seen by the author. A few coins have come close, however. Strangely, many of these very well struck coins are from the single Class VI doubled die obverse that's known for this date-every one of the dozen or so examples the author has seen has been close to a full strike.

1931-S # RECORDED 2126 WS- 14% TS- 83% GS- 4% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

A very large majority show a typical strike, with the usual lack of detail evident above the braid ribbon. Weak strikes are seen with some frequency; well struck coins are scarce. This is yet another unappreciated strike rarity from the late 1920's and early 1930's not seen (by the author) with a full strike on the obverse but sometimes with a near full strike on the reverse. A fully struck example of this date would certainly be an extraordinary item.

1934-P # RECORDED 1710 WS- 9% TS- 72% GS- 19% FS- .3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

After the 1938-D, this is one of the most frequently seen full strike dates of the era. It's most often seen with a typical strike but well struck coins are common as well.

1934-D # RECORDED 1041 WS- 45% TS- 49% GS- 7% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The author has seen one coin with a ***fully*** struck obverse but, unfortunately, with slightly incomplete details of the diagonal hairline at the bison's upper left leg on the reverse. It was still an AMAZING coin! It is one of the most poorly struck dates in the series, with little or no detail at the centers on many pieces. Coins struck from worn dies are also commonplace.

1935-P # RECORDED 3384 WS- 3% TS- 52% GS- 45% FS-.02%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Typical strikes predominate to a slight degree but well struck coins exist in large numbers. True full strikes on the other hand are very rarely seen. Like the previously mentioned 1919, so-called "specimen" strikes may exist for this date. These should show a complete strike and display somewhat atypical surfaces when compared to a regular business strike. The author has seen one in a PCGS MS67 slab that is struck just as well as the best of the 1936 satin proofs and which shared the same surface characteristics (finish) as do those coins. However, like the 1917 "Proof" issue, none have been certified as such by any of the major certification services.

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS
REGULAR ISSUES 1935-D THRU 1938-D

1935-D # RECORDED 1156 WS- 31% TS- 48% GS- 21% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Weak strikes and especially coins struck from late state eroded dies are common but actual weak *strikes* seem to be somewhat less of a problem for this date than for the San Francisco issue (eroded dies are seen less often for the "S" Mint coin-weak strikes seem to predominate.) True full strikes for either date are currently unknown-a few may exist but the author has yet to see one displaying a full strike as is defined in this book, though a few have come very close.

1935-S # RECORDED 1327 WS- 30% TS- 54% GS- 16% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Very poor strikes are a major problem with this issue-more so than with the Denver coin. True full strikes must certainly be excessively rare-assuming they exist at all. Coins struck from badly worn and eroded dies seem to be less frequently seen for this date as compared to the Denver issue-the strike itself seems to be more of a problem with the 1935-S than are worn dies.

1936-P # RECORDED 4611 WS- 2% TS- 47% GS- 51% FS- .2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Good strikes slightly outnumber typically struck coins, determined by the hair detail above the braid ribbon and at the front of the Bison's head. They are usually well to fully struck elsewhere. Strike extremes-either weak or full-are unusual. True full strikes, as defined in this book, are much tougher for this date (and the 1937) than is generally realized.

1936-D # RECORDED 1258 WS- 8% TS- 54% GS- 38% FS- .3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Typical strikes predominate to a greater degree than for the "P" Mint issue. Fully struck coins are of considerable rarity and, like so many of the late date coins in this series, are definitely unheralded strike rarities.

1936-S # RECORDED 1280 WS- 3% TS- 27% GS- 69% FS- .2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Generally better struck than either the "P" or "D" Mint coins-well struck pieces predominate to a very large degree. As with the previous date, fully struck examples (as defined in this book) are quite rare and should be considered to be unrecognized late date strike rarities.

1937-P # RECORDED 5329 WS- 1% TS- 52% GS- 46% FS- .3%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

As with the 1936, most show a typical strike and strike extremes-either weak or full-are rarely seen. A tough issue with a true full strike.

1937-D # RECORDED 2767 WS- 8% TS- 49% GS- 45% FS-.04%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The strike percentages are very close to the 1937-P and like that coin extremes of strike are unusual. A true full strike certainly exists for this date, though the author has yet to see one. The same comments concerning true full strikes for the 1936-D and S apply here as well.

1937-S # RECORDED 1676 WS- .1% TS- 24% GS- 75% FS- .5%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Usually shows a better strike than the previous two dates and like them rarely comes either weakly or fully struck.

1938-D # RECORDED 9013 WS-.01% TS- 11% GS- 87% FS- 2%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Many are seen advertised as "fully struck" but the number of true, 100% fully struck coins is not appreciably greater for this date than for most of the other typically well struck dates in the series, *at least by the standards set forth in this book*. These coins tend to lack just the tiniest amount of full hair detail above the braid ribbon and/or at the very front of the Bison's head in most cases. A very large majority do show a 90%-95% full strike. Poorly struck and very late die state coins are almost unheard of.

AVG-ALL DATES-REGULAR ISSUES (TOT-100,000 COINS)

WS ► ► ► ► ► ► ►	8.4%
TS ► ► ► ► ► ► ►	43.8%
GS ► ► ► ► ► ► ►	45.3%
GS ► ► ► ► ► ► ►	2.5%

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS
MAJOR VARIETIES 1913 THRU 1936-D

1913-1 3HL # RECORDED 13 WS- 0% TS- 0% GS- 46% FS- 54%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It seems to show a similarity to the regular issue. It is perhaps a little better struck due to the ever so slightly reduced relief between the fields and devices caused by the abrading of the die itself. Many of the known examples-possibly even a majority-are Mint state.

1914 4/3 # RECORDED 294 WS- 29% TS- 54% GS- 17% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Dies #01 and #02 only. Die #02 is the only overdate die that is recognized by the major grading services, though PCGS has stated that it will slab and attribute exceptional examples of Die #01. True full strikes are currently unknown for this variety, though it's quite possible a few full strikes may exist.

1916 DDO1 # RECORDED 105 WS- 0% TS- 58% GS- 37% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Not as well struck as the regular issue-most show a typical strike. With the tiny handful of Mint state pieces known it's not at all surprising than no full strike is known-in Mint State or in AU. It's very doubtful that a full strike for this variety will ever turn up.

1917 DDR1 # RECORDED 13 WS- 0% TS- 46% GS- 54% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

So few pieces are known at the XF-Mint state level that it's difficult to make an accurate assessment of the strike. The single Mint state coin the author has seen in person is a well struck coin.

1917-D 3HL # RECORDED 32 WS- 34% TS- 47% GS- 19% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Many are very weakly struck at the front of the Bison's head-to the extent of not having a complete horn. The balance of the coin may be well struck, but this localized weakness puts most coins in the weakly struck category. Commonly seen with the obverse grading a grade level or two better than the reverse in the Good thru VF range-a direct consequence of the weak reverse.

1918-D 8/7 # RECORDED 261 WS- 24% TS- 41% GS- 36% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Usually shows an adequate strike, but many are seen struck from a very late state of the dies. The most serious strike deficiency found is an often seen lack of a full horn and adjacent weakness of the surrounding hair detail-this affects the ultimate grade. A true full strike is not known, but one or two coins come close.

1926-D 3HL # RECORDED 20 WS- 30% TS- 65% GS- 5% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

With so few high grade coins known, no meaningful comments can be made about the strike. Most seen are of typical strike quality. A few are struck from badly worn dies, but not to the extent of the regular issue. It's a certainty that no fully struck coin of this variety exists.

1927-D 3HL # RECORDED 24 WS- 29% TS- 71% GS- 0% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

The same comments apply as was made for the 1926-D 3HL above. All high grade coins seen (only a few) have shown a typical strike. Some show a very eroded die that, combined with the die damage, produced a very weak coin. Actually, these eroded dies are preferably because they display a weaker leg.

1935 DDR1 # RECORDED 126 WS- 2% TS- 85% GS- 13% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

It generally follows the pattern of the regular issue regarding the strike. A major rarity in Mint state, no full strike is known and it's doubtful that one could exist. None of those seen by the author have come close.

1936-D 3HL # RECORDED 66 WS- 0% TS- 92% GS- 8% FS- 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

A large majority show a typical strike. Due to the rarity of Mint state and near Mint state coins it's a virtual certainty that a full strike will never be found (this same statement applies to all the varieties listed here except the first one and the last one.)

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS
MAJOR VARIETIES 1937-D THRU 1938-D

1937-D 3L — **# RECORDED 482** — **WS- 0%** TS- 48% **GS- 48%** **FS-** 0%

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

Nearly all are borderline TS/GS and could be put in either category. Contrary to it's reputation of poor strikes, it actually has a high percentage of *good* strikes (in the author's opinion) when considering the limitations imposed by the damaged die, which is often mistaken as a deficiency of the strike. This may be so because of the tiny reduction of the relief between the devices and the fields caused by the lapping of the die. Only a few really weak strikes have been recorded, and a completely fully struck example has not been seen at all (it's doubtful one exists.)

1938-D D/S — **# RECORDED 423** — **WS- 0%** TS- 13% **GS- 84%** **FS- 2%**

12345678910 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

OMMs #01 and #02 only. Like the regular issue, good to near full strikes should be expected for this variety.

AVERAGE-ALL DATES-MAJOR VARIETIES (TOT-1,934 COINS)

WS	10.3%
TS	45.0%
GS	43.8%
FS	0.8%

AVG-ALL DATES-REGULAR ISSUES + MAJOR VARIETIES (TOTAL-101,934 COINS)

WS	8.5%
TS	43.8%
GS	45.3%
FS	2.5%

Shown above are two examples of Mint State 1918-D 8/7 buffalo nickels. The coin on the left is a very early die state whereas the coin on the right is from an advanced state of the die. Though die state is rarely considered when a grade is assigned, the author feels die state is just as important as is strike, luster, and the absence or presence of blemishes.

A 100% FULLY STRUCK 1919-D

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This 1919-D Buffalo Nickel shows 100% full detailing on every design element, obverse and reverse. Even though there is a popular belief that this is one of the most poorly produced dates in the series, the author believes otherwise. While there are many other dates in the series that are much rarer than this date when showing a full strike, this is still an extraordinary coin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE GALLERIES

A DATE BY DATE STRIKE ANALYSIS

STRIKE QUALITY-PER 1000 COINS

Since percentages can be difficult to visualize, this chart has been included illustrating the number of coins in each strike category that would be expected to be found by examining a necessarily theoretical sample of **1000 Mint State coins.** Totals for some dates will be slightly more or less than 1000 because the percentages in each strike category were rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

76 TOTAL COINS INCLUDING 12 OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VARIETIES

DO1-DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE-DIE #01

#	DATE	VAR	WS	TS	GS	FS
01	1913-1		4	60	820	120
01a	1913-1	3HL	0	0	460	540
02	1913-D-1		8	130	740	110
03	1913-S-1		20	180	750	40
04	1913-2		50	520	410	20
05	1913-D-2		30	610	350	20
06	1913-S-2		110	590	290	7
07	1914		100	570	310	20
07a	1914	4/3	290	540	170	0
08	1914-D		60	460	420	50
09	1914-S		80	450	420	60
10	1915		4	150	730	110
11	1915-D		130	630	230	10
12	1915-S		30	530	420	30
13	1916		20	350	600	30
13a	1916	DO1	50	580	370	0
14	1916-D		160	480	350	5
15	1916-S		170	500	300	30
16	1917		30	500	440	30
16a	1917	DR1	0	460	540	0
17	1917-D		140	520	340	2
17a	1917-D	3HL	330	470	200	0
18	1917-S		120	480	350	40
19	1918		80	620	290	10
20	1918-D		270	470	260	5
20a	1918-D	8/7	240	410	360	0
21	1918-S		530	380	80	0
22	1919		20	440	530	10
23	1919-D		230	430	330	9
24	1919-S		330	490	180	3
25	1920		130	610	260	6
26	1920-D		230	500	270	8
27	1920-S		240	580	180	0
28	1921		10	70	730	190
29	1921-S		180	180	620	30
30	1923		30	490	470	7
31	1923-S		270	360	360	6

DR1-DOUBLED DIE REVERSE-DIE #01

#	DATE	VAR	WS	TS	GS	FS
32	1924		30	620	340	2
33	1924-D		360	540	110	0
34	1924-S		330	540	130	0
35	1925		60	670	260	4
36	1925-D		350	390	270	2
37	1925-S		320	460	210	0
38	1926		70	710	210	3
39	1926-D		550	340	120	0
39a	1926-D	3HL	300	650	50	0
40	1926-S		200	630	170	0
41	1927		60	830	110	6
42	1927-D		260	620	120	0
42a	1927-D	3HL	290	710	0	0
43	1927-S		70	320	610	0
44	1928		90	750	160	0
45	1928-D		260	580	160	0
46	1928-S		70	430	490	7
47	1929		240	720	40	0
48	1929-D		300	590	110	0
49	1929-S		80	560	360	6
50	1930		100	860	50	0
51	1930-S		70	830	110	0
52	1931-S		140	830	30	0
53	1934		90	720	190	3
54	1934-D		450	490	70	0
55	1935		30	520	450	0
55a	1935	DR1	20	850	130	0
56	1935-D		310	480	210	0
57	1935-S		300	540	160	0
58	1936		20	470	510	2
59	1936-D		80	540	380	3
59a	1936-D	3HL	0	920	80	0
60	1936-S		40	270	690	2
61	1937		10	520	460	3
62	1937-D		50	490	450	0
62a	1937-D	3L	40	480	480	0
63	1937-S		1	240	750	5
64	1938-D		0	110	870	20
64a	1938-D	D/S	0	130	840	20

SERIES AS A WHOLE	WS	TS	GS	FS
	85	438	453	25

29 OF 76 DATES WITHOUT A FULL STRIKE (38%)

An article from the May, 1913 issue of "THE NUMISMATIST" concerning the new Buffalo nickel. What a shame it would have been if the Mint would have decided to remove the Buffalo and replace it with a large "FIVE CENTS" as suggested! Fortunately, that didn't happen. Continued on the next page.

THE NEW FIVE-CENT PIECE.

BY W. H. DE SHON.

(Mr. De Shon, who is a member of the A. N. A., is an associate editor of the Utica (N. Y.) Herald-Dispatch, and has made the following editorial references to the new five-cent piece, which should be of interest to our readers.—Ed.)

The new five cent nickel has reached Utica. On the obverse is a most artistically executed head of a Comanche Indian, facing to the right and covering nearly the entire surface of the coin. The head dress presents no suggestion of the war bonnet of the Sioux, which the Buffalo Bill show has led the public to believe is typical of the garb of all American Indians, nor is there any hint of the chaplet of feathers such as appeared on the alleged indian head of the cent pieces just preceding the Lincoln cent. Instead the head is bare except for two eagle feathers thrust into the hair at the back. A thick lock of hair, bound with a thong, extends to the front of the neck. On the border of the coin opposite the forehead and nose of the Indian is the word "Liberty." Under the back of the neck is "1913" and under the 3 of this date is a very small letter "F," the initial of Artist Fraser who designed the coin. Being incused, this initial will remain on the coin until the surface around it is worn away—that is, it will last as long as any part of the raised surface. In some quarters objection has been made to this initial on the same ground that caused the withdrawal of the initials of Victor D. Brenner from the Lincoln cents. The "F" is likely to stay on the coin, however, as there is really no valid objection to its remaining. Many of our coins have borne the initials of their designers, notably the Indian head cent, on a neck ribbon of which was an "L," the initial of Longacre, the designer.

While the obverse of the new nickel may look more like that of a medal than a coin, there can be no criticism of it from an artistic point of view. The reverse, however, is apparently not so satisfactory. The chief feature is a full length figure of a buffalo, facing left and covering the surface from border to border. To the naked eye the face is very much suggestive of that of a human being, no matter from what point of view it is observed. On the border above the animal is the inscription "United States of America," and on the border below "Five Cents." Another inscription that is crowded into the field between the buffalo and "America" is "E Pluribus Unum" in three step-down lines. So crowded are the letters in "Pluribus" and "Unum" that, even under a powerful glass, they are seen to overlap. This fault, together with the fact that the letters are very small will soon reduce the words through wear to mere ridges on the surface. The crowding in of this motto mars the artistic appearance of the reverse. There is no particularly good reason why it should not have been omitted entirely. It first appeared on our coinage when it was put on the first $2.50 gold pieces that were struck. It had previously appeared on some of the State coins, notably the cents of New Jersey. There was no suggestion as to its use, however, in the act of Congress providing for the coinage of money. It is found on one of the half cents, none of the three-cent silver pieces or nickels, and none of the cents until the coming of the Lincoln cent. Outside of the $2.50 piece it did not appear on any of the coins first struck. Later, however, it was put on the reverses of gold and silver coins where it remained for many years. Eventually it disappeared from most of these coins to be returned on those of more recent mintage.

The new nickel, like its predecessor, does not bear the motto "In God We Trust." It and the 10-cent piece are the only coins of the United States now struck that do not have it. This motto first appeared on the two-cent pieces, coinage of which began in 1864. Subsequently it was put on most of the gold and silver coins. A notable exception was that of the St. Gaud-

ens double eagles and eagles. Those first struck did not bear the motto. Protest having been made, President Roosevelt made answer with some good arguments for the omission, but eventually he yielded and the motto appeared on all of the current gold pieces.

The act of Congress providing for the coinage of money provided that the word "Liberty" should appear on all coins. The provision has been generally carried out. Notable exceptions are the shield nickel five-cent pieces, the three-cent pieces both silver and nickel, the two-cent pieces and the copper-nickel cents struck in 1856, 1857 and 1858.—March 4.

MORE ABOUT NEW NICKEL.

In the March issue of The Numismatist, which is published by the American Numismatic Association, its editor, Edgar H. Adams, has this to say about the new five-cent piece:

It is said that Mr. Frazer (the designer) took as a model an Indian of the Cheyenne tribe, who recently visited New York City. The bison was modeled after a specimen in the New York Zoological Garden. * * * It is to be regretted that the new coin does not show much more finished die work, which could easily have been accomplished. We are inclined to think that the rough finish of the design will encourage counterfeiters, whose handicraft need not now fear comparison which it has met in the past with the ordinarily delicate and finished mint issues. The new piece certainly has radically changed the old-time tradition that Columbia is our best representation of "liberty." In view of the rather restricted character of both the Indian and the buffalo to-day, it is an open question whether either is a good symbol of "liberty." St. Gaudens, in an interview, once stated that his conception of a symbol of liberty was that of a "leaping boy." We still prefer Miss Columbia as the proper representation of freedom, and regret that she does not appear on the new five-cent piece. We have no doubt that the original enlarged model of this design was of a handsome character, but that it would not allow for the great reduction to the size of a five-cent piece is quite apparent. From an artistic point of view no doubt the design is all that it should be, but there is another element to be considered in the making of a coin design, and that is the one of practicability. For instance, the date and the motto are in such obscure figures and letters that the slightest wear will obliterate them beyond understanding. Altogether the new design emphasizes the absolute necessity of the appointment of a proper committee to pass upon new coin designs. Such a committee should be composed of sculptors, numismatists and die engravers. One of this committee should be the Chief Engraver of the Mint. It will not be until the appointment of such a committee that we may expect to see a coin that will embody all the proper requisites.

No five-cent pieces of the old type have been coined this year. Proofs of the new type are not yet ready to be delivered, although, as no money sent with orders for the coins has been returned, it is inferred that proofs may be issued eventually. There is a possibility, however, that, because of the widespread objection to the new coin, no proofs of it may be struck until changes are made in the design. Heretofore proof nickels have been struck by a hand press from specially prepared dies on burnished planchets. The result was that the field of the coin, which was of considerable area, was given a mirror-like surface. The cents of the Indian head type were struck in the same way. With the advent of the Lincoln cent, however, the brilliant polish of the field disappeared, with the result that, outside of perhaps a clearer impression, there was practically no difference between proofs and the regular cent just issued for circulation. The area of the field of the new nickel is very small because of the size of the Indian head on the obverse and that of the full-length buffalo on the reverse, and what there is of the field has a roughly finished surface that is suggestive of lead rather than of nickel. Moreover, there is a concave surface, the striking of which appears to have forced up the metal along the edge, thus making the coin there so much thicker than that of the old type that it cannot be used in the slot machines now so common. If the field surface of proofs of the new nickels is to be as lacking in brilliancy as is that of the ones issued for circulation, there will be little difference between the two. Possibly, as we have

stated, there may be a change in the design of the new coin. There can be nothing, however, in the story going the rounds that the Government will "recall" the coins already issued. The Government cannot repudiate them, nor can it get possession of hundreds of thousands of them already in circulation to destroy them. It can only change the design and issue new coins of that design to circulate with the others, as was done in 1883, when the five-cent piece with the word "cents" was issued instead of the piece without "cents."

Up to last year the Philadelphia mint was the only one that coined five-cent pieces. Last year coinage of them was begun at the Denver mint. This year the coins will be struck for the first time at the San Francisco mint. As these mints are the only ones now in operation, all the mints of the United States will this year coin both cent and five-cent pieces.—March 11.

THE PROOF NICKELS.

Proofs of all denominations of metallic money issued by the United States are struck at the Philadelphia mint, the only one where they are coined. They are sold to persons remitting for them at prices enough higher than their face value to pay for the cost of getting them out. For example, proofs of the minor coins—cent and 5 cents—are sold for 15 cents. Until recently the price was only 8 cents. The coins are struck by hand on a hydraulic press. Up to recently the planchets were burnished until they had a mirror-like surface, which remained on the field of a coin after striking, giving it a brilliant and attractive appearance. When the Lincoln cent was issued, however, a somewhat roughened surface was given to the field, with the result that the former brilliancy was lost, and there was little difference between a proof coin and one just issued for circulation.

Proof coins have as a rule been ready for distribution to those ordering them on January 15 of each year. This year, however, because of the change in the design of the nickel, there has been a delay of about two months in getting out the minor proofs. They are at last being received by collectors. The proof of the 5-cent piece is even more unsatisfactory than that of the Lincoln cent. While the lines of the design are finer and struck up more clearly—the wrinkles on the buffalo's skin, and parts of the Indian's head, for example—the appearance of the coin is practically the same as that of the one struck for circulation. The surface of the small field is as rough, and the date and letters as liable to wear. There is the same crowding of the letters in the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," particularly in "Pluribus," where the "I" is wedged in so tightly between the "R" and the "B" as to be difficult of detection even through a very strong magnifying glass. Although a different die is supposed to have been used in striking these proofs, there is no detectable difference in design between it and that used for the nickels distributed for circulation.

The prediction of numismatical experts that the lead-like appearance of the new nickel, because of the rough surface, would make easy the counterfeiting of it, is already being fulfilled. From Philadelphia comes the report that the slot machines in that city are being flooded with counterfeits. As the danger of getting bogus coins increases, popular objection to the new nickel will be still more pronounced, and may become so strong as to force, before the year ends, some alteration in the design that will make it to conform more satisfactorily with what is of practical necessity in the case of a piece of money of so wide a circulation as the nickel. Satisfactory changes in the design might be as follows: Retain the head of the Cheyenne Indian, which is really an artistic creation, but reduce the size so as to give more field surface to the obverse. Above the head place the word "Liberty" and, underneath, the date in figures as large as those of the old design. If the initial of the designer's name is retained, let it be incused in the bottom of the Indian's neck. Eliminate the buffalo from the reverse entirely. Discard also the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," as there seems to be no good reason why it should appear on any of our coins. Around the upper border place the legend "United States of America;" in the center the figure 5, as appeared on the old shield nickels; and, on the lower border, the word "Cents." Give the field on both the obverse and reverse a smooth, level surface. A design of this kind would be sufficiently artistic, while there could be no objection to it from a practical point of view.—March 18.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The following several pages contain additional articles that may be of interest to the Buffalo Nickel collector.

From the "Numismatist" March, 1911

When are we going to have a new five-cent piece? Since 1892 the issue of a new five-cent piece has been lawful, and each year we have been expecting the new design. That several patterns for such a piece have been made at the mint there is little doubt, but they are not seen by the collectors, who would be greatly interested in them.

From the "Numismatist" January, 1912

NO CHANGE IN THE DESIGN OF THE FIVE-CENT PIECE.

Rumors still being active in regard to the contemplated issue by the Government of a five-cent piece of new design, on which will be placed the portrait of Washington, Director Roberts has been communicated with. His reply follows:

MR. E. H. ADAMS,
Care THE NUMISMATIST,
40 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I beg to say that no change in the design of the 5c. nickel piece has been determined upon.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. ROBERTS,
Director of the Mint.

From the "Numismatist" June, 1912

It is not improbable that when the new copper-nickel coins make their appearance they will be accompanied by a new design for a nickel five-cent piece. Since 1892 the design of this piece has been open to change, and a number of patterns have been prepared by the mint engravers for the denomination. The latest model for the five-cent nickel is understood to be under preparation by a well-known New York sculptor, and it is said that the principal device will be a buffalo.

From the "Numismatist" December, 1912

According to recent newspaper reports the new design for a nickel five-cent piece, the work of James Earl Fraser of New York City, has been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury and by the National Art Committee, and is said now to need but the approval of President Taft to become the official design for the coin of that denomination. As has been stated in previous issues of the Numismatist, the obverse design of the new piece is that of a buffalo, while on the reverse is the representation of an Indian head. There will be no "V," but the denomination is spelled in full, "FIVE CENTS." The Numismatist hopes soon to be able to illustrate the new piece for its readers.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

From January, 1913

THE NEW FIVE CENT PIECE.

Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh in his annual report made this reference to the new five-cent nickel piece: "A new five-cent piece will shortly be issued with designs that will again assist the art standards of our coinage. Coins have always aimed to be works of art, both in ancient and modern times. We do not hope, under present conditions, to equal the coins of the great ancient periods. The artists then had a far greater opportunity, because the coins did not have to be stacked. Notwithstanding our practical limitations, however, modern coins can still be immensely interesting and beautiful; and the designs for the new nickel will give this coin a place with the best modern work."

It is understood that the design has been definitely accepted, and that the coin will be issued in 1913.

Both From March, 1913

Editor NUMISMATIST:

The following letters may be of interest to your readers as showing, (a) that none of the old type of nickels will be struck this year; (b), that there is delay in striking the new ones, and (c) that nickels will also be struck at the San Francisco Mint this year.

Treasury Department, Washington, Jan. 10, 1913.

Commodore W. C. Eaton,
Hamilton, N. Y.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd inst. I beg to say that the old type of 5ct. piece will not be coined at all in 1913.

The San Francisco Mint as well as the other mints will issue the new 5ct. piece.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

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10 Jan. 13.

Sir:

Your letter of the 8th instant has been received. We do not know when the proof coins for this year will be ready, as we are delayed by experiments with the new five cent piece.

Our orders are that there will be none of the old design five cent piece struck this year.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Albert A. Norris,
Acting Superintendant,
Mint U. S. Philada.

From the "Numismatist" March, 1913

THE NEW FIVE-CENT PIECE.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. George E. Roberts, Director of the United States Mint, we are enabled to show in this number a reproduction of the new five-cent piece, which is now being coined at the mint. It was intended to issue this coin early in February, but it was not until Feb. 17 that regular coinage started, when one press produced them at the rate of 120 per minute.

The design is radically different from that of any five-cent piece that has ever been issued at the Mint, and is slightly concave on both sides, somewhat like the present ten and twenty-dollar pieces. Directly under the figure "3" of the date 1913 on the obverse is the letter "F" for the designer of the piece, James Earl Fraser of New York City. It is said that Mr. Fraser took as a model an Indian of the Cheyenne tribe who recently visited New York City. The bison was modeled after a specimen in the New York Zoological Garden.

Mr. Fraser, the designer, is reported as saying that the capital "F" below the date has met with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Mint, and also the National Art Commission.

Already, it is said, the presence of this tiny letter has aroused a certain amount of criticism, similar to that which greeted the appearance of the letters "V. D. B." on the Lincoln cent, which resulted in their removal, doing an injustice to Mr. Brenner, its designer, and violating all precedents.

It is to be regretted that the new coin does not show much more finished die work, which could easily have been accomplished. We are inclined to think that the rough finish of the design will encourage counterfeiters, whose handicraft need not now fear comparison which it has met in the past with the ordinarily delicate and finished mint issues.

The new piece certainly has radically changed the old-time tradition that Columbia is our best representation of "liberty." In view of the rather restricted character of both of the Indian and the buffalo to-day, it is an open question whether either is a good symbol of "liberty." St. Gaudens, in an interview, once stated that his conception of a symbol of liberty was that of "a leaping boy."

We still prefer Miss Columbia as the proper representation of freedom, and regret that she does not appear on the new five-cent piece. We have no doubt that the original enlarged model of this design was of a handsome character, but that it would not allow for the great reduction to the size of a five-cent piece is quite apparent. From an artistic point of view no doubt the design is all that it should be, but there is another element to be considered in the making of a coin design, and that is the one of practicability. For instance, the date and the motto are in such obscure figures and letters that the slightest wear will obliterate them beyond understanding.

Altogether the new design emphasizes the obsolute necessity of the appointment of a proper committee to pass upon new coin designs. Such a committee should be composed of sculptors, numismatists, and die engravers. One of this committee should be the Chief Engraver of the Mint. It will not be until the appointment of such a committee that we may expect to see a coin that will embody all the proper requisites.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

From the "Numismatist" March, 1913

Editor NUMISMATIST:

The following letters may be of interest to your readers as showing, (a) that none of the old type of nickels will be struck this year; (b), that there is delay in striking the new ones, and (c) that nickels will also be struck at the San Francisco Mint this year.

Treasury Department, Washington, Jan. 10, 1913.

Commodore W. C. Eaton,
Hamilton, N. Y.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd inst. I beg to say that the old type of 5ct. piece will not be coined at all in 1913.

The San Francisco Mint as well as the other mints will issue the new 5ct. piece.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Geo. E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.

From the "Numismatist" April, 1913

10 Jan. 13.

Sir:

Your letter of the 8th instant has been received. We do not know when the proof coins for this year will be ready, as we are delayed by experiments with the new five cent piece.

Our orders are that there will be none of the old design five cent piece struck this year.

Respectfully,
(Signed) Albert A. Norris,
Acting Superintendant,
Mint U. S. Philada.

From the "Numismatist" February, 1914

The Committee on United States Coins desires to report that the most notable matter relating to our coinage for 1913 has been the adoption and circulation of a five-cent piece of new design, the work of Mr. James Earl Fraser. This is the coin bearing as the chief devices an Indian head and a buffalo on the obverse and reverse, respectively, and which was issued at the United States Mint regularly for circulation in February, 1913. Of course all are now well acquainted with this new coin.

The original design, however, has since been altered by more sharply defining the date and the denomination. This was deemed advisable, as on account of the very low relief of these important parts on the original design they soon would have been partially or totally obliterated during the wear of circulation.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

From the "Numismatist" May, 1913 Part 1

THE PROOF NICKELS.

Proofs of all denominations of metallic money issued by the United States are struck at the Philadelphia mint, the only one where they are coined. They are sold to persons remitting for them at prices enough higher than their face value to pay for the cost of getting them out. For example, proofs of the minor coins—cent and 5 cents—are sold for 15 cents. Until recently the price was only 8 cents. The coins are struck by hand on a hydraulic press. Up to recently the planchets were burnished until they had a mirror-like surface, which remained on the field of a coin after striking, giving it a brilliant and attractive appearance. When the Lincoln cent was issued, however, a somewhat roughened surface was given to the field, with the result that the former brilliancy was lost, and there was little difference between a proof coin and one just issued for circulation.

Proof coins have as a rule been ready for distribution to those ordering them on January 15 of each year. This year, however, because of the change in the design of the nickel, there has been a delay of about two months in getting out the minor proofs. They are at last being received by collectors. The proof of the 5-cent piece is even more unsatisfactory than that of the Lincoln cent. While the lines of the design are finer and struck up more clearly—the wrinkles on the buffalo's skin, and parts of the Indian's head, for example—the appearance of the coin is practically the same as that of the one struck for circulation. The surface of the small field is as rough, and the date and letters as liable to wear. There is the same crowding of the letters in the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," particularly in "Pluribus," where the "I" is wedged in so tightly between the "R" and the "B" as to be difficult of detection even through a very strong magnifying glass. Although a different die is supposed to have been used in striking these proofs, there is no detectable difference in design between it and that used for the nickels distributed for circulation.

The prediction of numismatical experts that the lead-like appearance of the new nickel, because of the rough surface, would make easy the counterfeiting of it, is already being fulfilled. From Philadelphia comes the report that the slot machines in that city are being flooded with counterfeits. As the danger of getting bogus coins increases, popular objection to the new nickel will be still more pronounced, and may become so strong as to force, before the year ends, some alteration in the design that will make it to conform more satisfactorily with what is of practical necessity in the case of a piece of money of so wide a circulation as the nickel. Satisfactory changes in the design might be as follows: Retain the head of the Cheyenne Indian, which is really an artistic creation, but reduce the size so as to give more field surface to the obverse. Above the head place the word "Liberty" and, underneath, the date in figures as large as those of the old design. If the initial of the designer's name is retained, let it be incused in the bottom of the Indian's neck. Eliminate the buffalo from the reverse entirely. Discard also the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," as there seems to be no good reason why it should appear on any of our coins. Around the upper border place the legend "United States of America;" in the center the figure 5, as appeared on the old shield nickels; and, on the lower border, the word "Cents." Give the field on both the obverse and reverse a smooth, level surface. A design of this kind would be sufficiently artistic, while there could be no objection to it from a practical point of view.—March 18.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

From the "Numismatist" May, 1913

The new five-cent nickel was on exhibition, and much unfavorable criticism was expressed upon its general appearance, it being poorly executed, as if the dies were machine-made; also that the head of the Indian as well as the buffalo are too large for the size of the coin.

Mr. Oliver distributed the minor proof sets of 1913, and everyone present was very much disappointed in the new nickel.

From the "Numismatist" June, 1914

Letter to Editor.

Editor NUMISMATIST:

Thinking this may be of interest to your readers, and die collectors, and not having seen it mentioned before, I write the following: In looking over about fifty of the new buffalo nickels for 1913, Philadelphia mint, second issue, I saw what appeared to be a roughness under the chin or throat of the Indian. Using a glass I could make out the letters LCRIB. which appeared to be incuse. I became more interested, wondering how they came there. Looking more closely, I observed a depression in the field back of the Indian's neck, extending up under the large feather. This particular nickel also had a matted effect on the neck, around the eye, and on temple of the Indian. Also in the field surrounding the head of the Indian, turning to the reverse side, I saw that the motto, E PLURIBUS UNUM, is directly opposite the letters on the obverse under the throat of the Indian. This solved the puzzle of the letters, LCRIB. which are part of the motto, with the first and last two letters missing. The depression in the field back of the Indian's neck was caused no doubt by the impression of the hump of the buffalo, which makes it more interesting to know how this nickel was struck. Looking over several more, I found another different from the first, nearly all of the motto showing, incuse, the letter E very plain, PLURIBUS not so plain, and the tops of the word UNUM showing. This nickel has no depression back of the Indian's neck. Neither has it the matted effect. Going over the balance, I found several with just a slight impression under the chin, but no depression back of the neck; neither the matted effect. Summing up, I found five of the first mentioned, one of the second, and seven of the third, all of the second issue, Philadelphia mint. I have also found several of the S mint nickels marked in the same place, but not so strong an impression, and only one or two letters showing. As I said before, it would be interesting to know how these nickels are struck. Perhaps some of the collectors of die varieties may enlighten us on the subject.

HENRY MITCHELL.

2857 N. Lawrence St., Phila., Pa.

From the "Numismatist" December, 1914

Original Models for the Five-Cent Piece.

Through the kindness of Secretary Bauman L. Belden of The American Numismatic Society of New York we are enabled to illustrate this month the original models for the five-cent piece by Mr. James E. Fraser. These illustrations were shown in the latest issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics*, which is published by the above-named society.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

From the "Numismatist" March, 1931

The exhibit of the evening was that of Mr. Bluestone: Five cents, nickel, 1918 over 1917, Denver mint. All members examined the piece. The concensus of opinion was that the coin is struck from a die in which the figure 8 has been cut over the figure 7. This fact is borne out by the condition of the piece, uncirculated, and the distinct appearance of the flat top of the 7 and its downward stroke through the 8. This is unquestionably an overdate from the mint. Mr. Bluestone also showed some choice fractional currency.

The first report of the 1918-D 8/7 5C from the Buffalo, NY Numismatic Association by Barney Bluestone in 1930.

From the "Numismatist" March, 1931

COINAGE FOR JANUARY.

Following are the number of pieces of the different denominations coined at the mints of the United States during January, 1931, as officially reported by the Bureau of the Mint, Washington, D. C.:

Nickel—Five Cents, 194,000.
Bronze—One Cent, 5,746,000.

This was the entire mintage for the 1931-S Buffalo Nickel until December, 1931, when it was realized that nearly the entire issue would be hoarded because of the extremely low mintage.

From the "Numismatist" February, 1932

COINAGE FOR DECEMBER, 1931.

Following is the number of pieces of the different denominations coined at the mints of the United States in December, 1931, as officially reported by the Bureau of the Mint, Washington, D. C.:

Gold—Double Eagles, 1,188,250.
Silver—Dimes, 350,000.
Nickel—Five Cents, 1,006,000.
Bronze—One Cent, 244,000.

The low mintage issue was largely resolved as shown above though this date was still hoarded to some extent.

From the "Numismatist" July, 1931

THE HEAD ON THE CURRENT NICKEL.

That is not the face of Chief Two Guns Whitecalf on the Buffalo nickels. It is three other fellows, says an Associated Press dispatch.

Ever since the present 5-cent piece was designed, about eighteen years ago, there have been stories to the effect that Two Guns was the original of the Indian head. Recently James E. Frazer, who designed the coin, wrote the Indian Office that he had never seen Two Guns, but had used three different Indians to obtain the design. One was named Irontail, another was Two Moons, a Cheyenne chief who is now dead. Frazer has forgotten the name of the other. Nevertheless, Chief Two Guns has a magnificent head and many artists have modeled it.

UNITED STATES

FIVE CENT PIECES

Continued

PHILADELPHIA MINT

INDIAN HEAD

	Unc.	Proof
1921	.45	..
1922 None Issued		
1923	.45	..
1924	.40	..
1925	.30	..
1926	.30	..
1927	.30	..
1928	.15	..
1929	.15	..
1930	.25	..
1931 None Issued		
1932 None Issued		
1933 None Issued		
1934	.15	..
1935		

SAN FRANCISCO MINT

1913 Mound	1.15	..
1913 Mound Lacking	1.75	..
1914	.90	..
1915	.60	..
1916	.60	..
1917	.90	..
1918	.90	..
1919	.90	..
1920	.90	..
1921	.90	..
1922 None Issued		
1923	1.00	..
1924	.65	..
1925	1.35	..
1926	.65	..
1927	.65	..
1928	.50	..
1929	.45	..
1930	.45	..
1931	.45	..

SAN FRANCISCO MINT

NICKELS

Continued

	Unc.
1932 None Issued	
1933 None Issued	
1934 None Issued	
1935	

DENVER MINT

1913 Mound Lacking	1.15
1913 With Mound	1.75
1914	.90
1915	1.35
1916	.50
1917	.90
1918	.90
1919	.90
1920	1 15
1921 None Issued	
1922 None Issued	
1923 None Issued	
1924	.65
1925	.65
1926	.65
1927	.65
1928	.45
1929	.45
1930 None Issued	
1931 None Issued	
1932 None Issued	
1933 None Issued	
1934	.20
1935	

Postage Paid on Orders in Excess of Three Dollars.

Prices for Sharp, Bright Specimens.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

For Sale By

F. C. C. BOYD

237 East 20th Street, New York City

Look at these prices from 1935!

From the "Numismatist" April, 1938

Exit the Buffalo Nickel

On January 25 it was announced by the Treasury Department in Washington that during 1938 new designs for the coinage of five-cent nickels will be adopted and used. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, is reported to have said that the obverse will have a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, and the reverse will show his home, Monticello, in Virginia. A prize of $1000 is offered for the designs selected by Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, and three sculptors, Sidney Waugh, Albert Stewart and Henry Warneke.

It is just 25 years since the current type of our five-cent coin was first used. The law provides that coin designs may not be changed oftener than 25 years except by special act of Congress. After designs have been used 25 years they may be changed by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Mint without authority of Congress. The liberty head type of nickel had been in use 30 years before it was discontinued in 1913. In the latter part of 1912 it was announced that new designs would be used the following year.

It was this state of affairs that a few years later brought about the craze for finding 1913 Liberty head nickels in circulation. As the year 1912 came to a close the dies for the new designs had not been completed. In case the mint received orders early in 1913 to coin nickels, dies were prepared for coining the Liberty head type dated 1913, from which five or six pieces were struck to test the dies. In some manner these few pieces were obtained from the mint, and later in the year publicity was given to the fact. As it was definitely known that these few pieces existed, it was felt in some quarters there was a possibility that others also had been coined and placed in circulation. A number of pieces with altered dates have since come to the surface, but so far as collectors know, not another genuine piece of this type and date is in existence. The whereabouts of the five or six genuine pieces is not generally known.

As the designs of our coins change so infrequently, new ones are always of great interest to collectors. Although they have added to their collections new dates and mint marks of the nickel as they have been issued, there has been little real enthusiasm over this denomination. The designs were so different from what they had been accustomed that the coins looked somewhat out of place in a collection.

What a shame. This design sure didn't last nearly long enough. That's just the author's opinion, though.

BUFFALO NICKELS

Dear Collector: Many of these nickels are becoming rare in fine to very fine condition. I have concentrated for two years in obtaining the nicest ones available from circulation in over 21 States and have succeeded in accumulating only a very moderate stock.

All dates and mints are listed below. Complete that set now with nice coins.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

	Fine	V.F.
1913 Type 1	.15	.20
1913-D or S, T. 1	.35	.60
1913 T. 2, '14-'15, ea.	.35	.60
1913-D T. 2	.75	1.50
1913-S T. 2	1.25	2.25
1914-D, '15-D, ea.	.60	1.00
1914-S, '15-S, ea.	.40	.75
1916 to 1925, ea.	.15	.35
1916-D or S to 1920-D or S, each	.30	.60
1921-S, '23-S, '24-S, each	.35	.75
1924-D, '25-D or S, each	.30	.60
1926-D, '27-D, each	.25	.60
1926-S, '27-S, each	.50	1.00
1926 to 1937, each	.10	.20
1928-D-S, '31-S, each	.15	.25
1929-D-S to '36-D-S	.10	.15
1937-D 3-legged Buffalo		.75
1937-D-S, '38-D, Unc. each	.15	
Any Jefferson UNC.		.15
12-pc. set Jeff., UNC.		1.35

MISC. BARGAINS

Complete set Buffalo nickels, good to fine, 64 pcs. $5.60

Complete set Buffaloes, fine to very fine, 64 pcs., a real nice set in holder $12.65

Complete set very fine to UNC., includes 3-legged Buffalo, 65 pcs. in neat holder, a set to be proud of $27.95

1912-S Nickel, V. fine, sharp	2.75
1912-D Nickel, UNC.	5.50
QUARTERS, 1920-D V. fine	3.50
1927-D Brill. UNC.	1.75
1932-D or S, fine, each	.60
1936-D, '37-D UNC. each	.45
1939-D, '40-D, '41-D UNC., each	.40
1941-D Cents, unc., per 100	1.35

Postage and insurance extra on orders under $5.00.

A. C. OVERTON

1627 E. Eighth St., Pueblo, Colo.

A. N. A. 7209.

MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST

A commemorative first day cover issued by the National Wildlife Federation featuring a 1937 buffalo nickel and Wildlife Conservation 6c stamp, Scott #1392, from 1970.

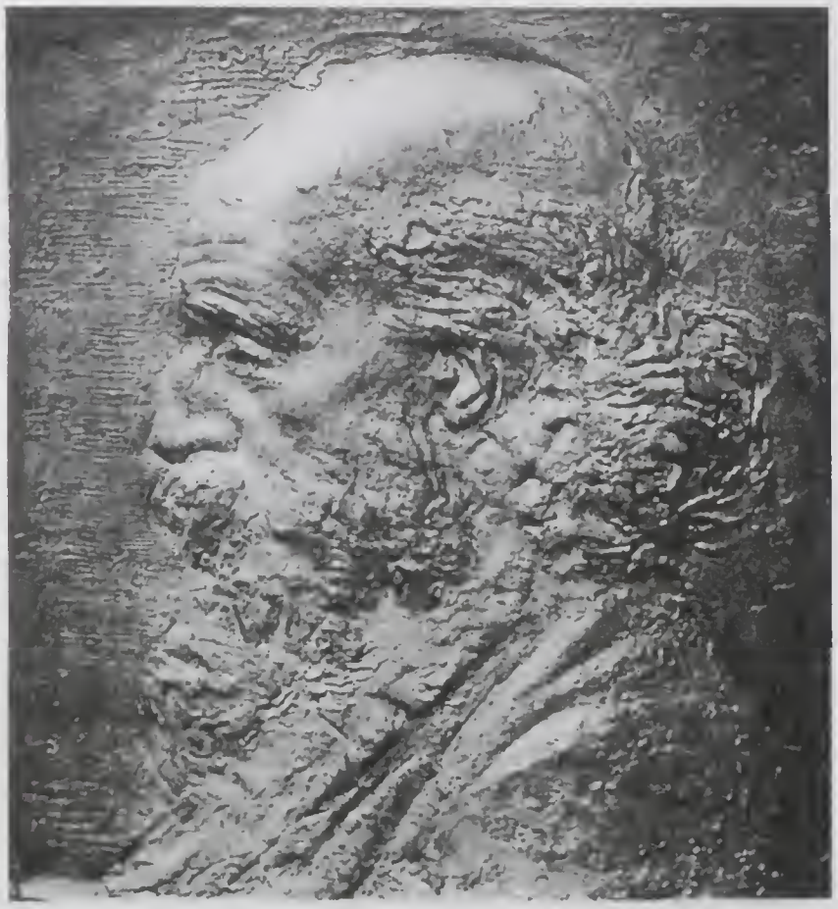
IRON TAIL.
THE FAMOUS INDIAN CHIEF.

An image of Chief Iron Tail from a post card.

MODEL FOR THE FIVE-CENT PIECE.

We are indebted to Mr. Foster Lardner of Providence, R. I., for a snapshot of Chief Iron Tail, of the Sioux Indians, who is said to have been the model used by Mr. James Earl Fraser for the design of the Indian head on the new five-cent piece. Chief Iron Tail is now connected with the show known as 101 Ranch, and is said to be very proud of the fact that his features were selected as most nearly typifying the Indian of history and tradition.

From the August, 1913 issue of "The Numismatist."



HEAD OF AN OLD MAN, BY JAMES E. FRASER

"Buffalo in a tux" shown on a Postal cover from the Larkin Soap Co to be used during the 1901 Pan American Exposition held in Buffalo, NY.

BUFFALO NICKEL REPRODUCTIONS

Above-a ceramic Buffalo Nickel bank. It is around 6 inches in diameter.

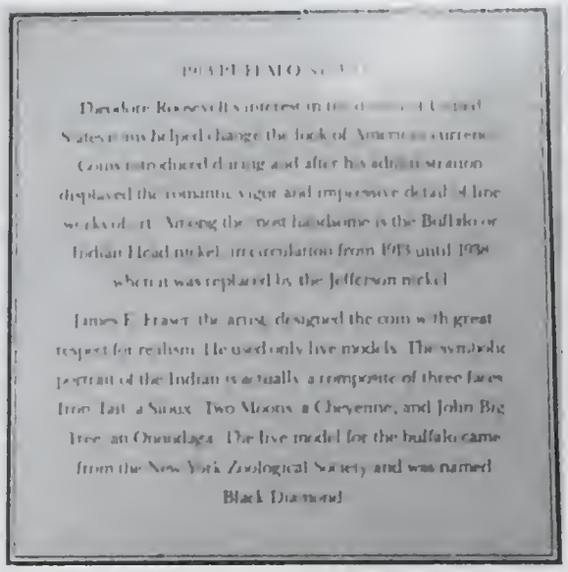
Here is a Buffalo Nickel can. The effigies are a fairly accurate copy of the images found on the actual coin.

BUFFALO NICKEL REPRODUCTIONS

Pictured above is a very well done 3½ inch reproduction plaque of the 1937-D 3 legged nickel. These are used as paperweights, decorations, and, with a hole drilled near the top, as key chains. They were also modified for use as belt buckles. The author has seen other examples of these plaques dated 1913-S (Var. 2), 1918, 1924-S, and 1926-S.

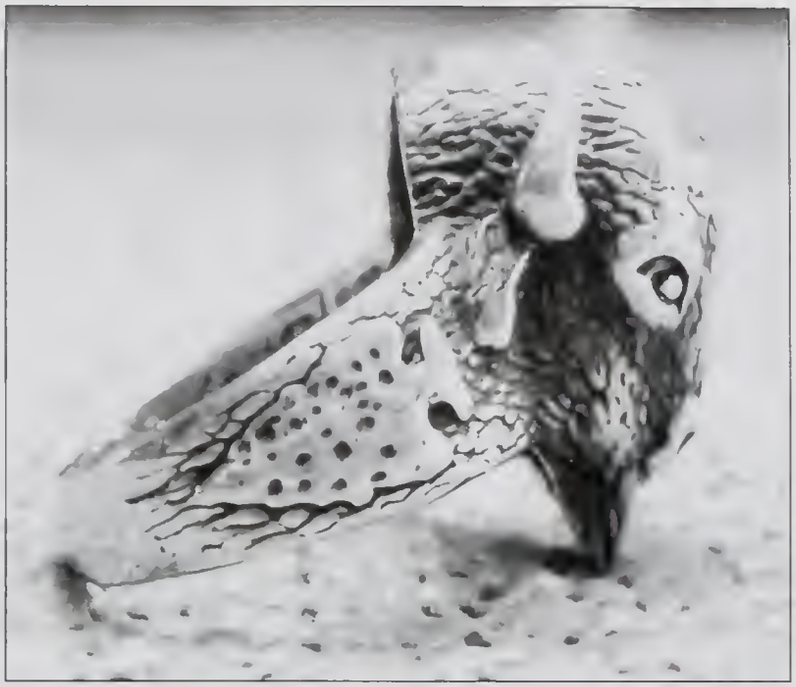
The Avon Company made a number of Buffalo nickel reproductions. Pictured above is an after shave bottle. The product was known as "Wild Country." The original box is also shown.

BUFFALO NICKEL REPRODUCTIONS



Another Avon Company product is a soap dish titled "The First Buffalo Nickel." The soap that came with the dish shows both the obverse and the reverse of the design. The original box is also shown (top.)

BUFFALO NICKEL JEWELRY



A buffalo head ring owned (and worn) by the author.

A "dream catcher" pendant also owned by the author.

A "Numistamp" made by Mort Reed in 1973. This was part of a complete set of type coins issued in this format. They are still available from time to time today-the author obtained this example along with the corresponding Shield, Liberty, and Jefferson types from ebay.

1901 BUFFALO NY PAN AMERICAN MEDAL

A Pan American Exposition medal owned by the author. It was designed by Hermon MacNeil, the designer of the Standing Liberty Quarter. This medal was issued in 1901 and shows an outstanding rendition of an American Bison. They were made in bronze, silver, and gilt bronze. There is a very high demand for this scarce medal today.

A souvenir deck of cards from the 1901 Pan American Exposition. These can be found from time to time on ebay, where they range in price from $25 to around $100 for a near new deck.

BILL FIVAZ AND BLACK DIAMOND

Bill Fivaz, co-author of "The Cherrypicker's Guide" posing with Black Diamond at the 1994 ANA convention in Detroit. Black Diamond was slaughtered in 1915 but his head was preserved and mounted as seen above. Bill is instrumental not only for publicizing Hobo Nickels but also for the masked Indian die clash (which he called the "Lone Ranger" variety) and for the two feather coins as well, having written articles for "Coin World" on the former and for the "Coin Dealer Newsletter" on the latter. Bill is also a leading authority on Hobo nickels, having served as president, board member for 18 years, and authenticator for OHNS. He and a few other enthusiasts formed OHNS (Original Hobo Nickel Society) to study, promote, and collect them at the ANA Summer seminar in 1992. Several outstanding examples of Hobo nickels are shown on the following two pages. The popularity of this art form is illustrated by the prices some of the best ones have brought lately-$22,000 for a two sided example by George Washington "Bo" Hughes.

A post card titled "Chief Iron Tail the Indian on the Nickel, Oklahoma.

"HOBO" NICKELS—OBVERSE

These are known as "Hobo" nickels and were carved from the 1920s through the 1950s. They were made by hobos and prisoners who would sell them or trade them for cigarettes or other items. Some of the more interesting obverse carvings are shown below. They are avidly collected today if they are original and of high quality. Some of the best ones, especially those made by "Bert" or "Bo" can be worth several thousand dollars. Note that the last two were carved from key dates in the series. #9 below is an extremely well done modern example by Aleksey Saburov-see more carvings by him on pages M-38 and M-39.

1918-D 8/7

AU 1921-S

"HOBO" NICKELS—REVERSE

The reverse side of these coins can also show extensive carving, sometimes just as interesting and detailed as those involving the obverse. Note the political theme displayed on a few of these and the simple but clever carving on the second and third coins pictured below. All images (except #2 and #3, which are modern carvings) are courtesy of Heritage Auctions and were taken from the Heritage Archives.

"HOBO" NICKELS BY ALEKSEY SABUROV

The detail, intricacy, and craftsmanship on these modern Hobo nickels are fabulous! Here and on the next page are some of the outstanding examples of Aleksey's work. More of these can be seen at **www.SaburovArt.com** These are ***TRULY*** works of art!!

STEAMPUNK BULLDOG

FAMILY (LION PRIDE)

FAMOUS INDIAN CHIEF

A REAL POPEYE

POPEYE

INNOCENCE

BIG SHOE

THREE LEGGED BUFFALO

STEAM TRAIN

LEND A HAND

POKER JOKER

JOHN SMITH OLD WRINKLED MEAT

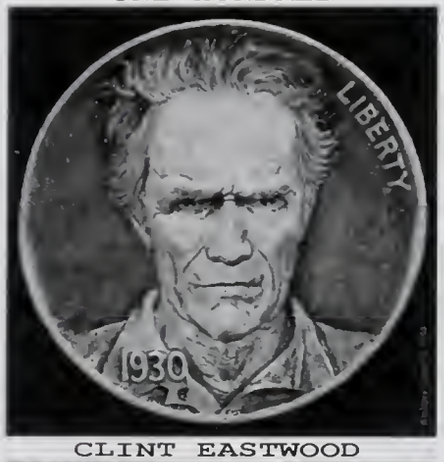
"HOBO" NICKELS BY ALEKSEY SABUROV

Here is the second page of some of the outstanding examples of Aleksey's work. The second row really requires no captions at all. We can tell who these guys are without 'em! Many more of these can be seen at www.SaburovArt.com Have a look!

ONE HUNDRED

CHEERS!

THE PIE THIEF



CLINT EASTWOOD

THE KING

WILLIE NELSON

KOKOPELLI

HANG OUT TO DRY

LITTLE WARRIOR

LISTENING TO THE TRAIN

COME CALLING

LITTLE MAN

THE TOP VARIETIES IN THE SERIES

Below are the top varieties-doubled dies, RPMs, and abraded dies-in the series. They are arranged strictly by eye appeal and not necessarily by rarity or value-and ***in the author's opinion only.*** However, the "Fab Four" are considered by most to be the top four standard and most widely collected varieties in the set (larger images of these can be seen on page N-02.) The 1938-D D/S OMM#1 may be included in the top group by many collectors.

THE FAB FOUR

THE FAB FOUR :

01	1937-D	3 LEGGED BUFFALO
02	1918-D	8/7 DOUBLED DIE OBV 1-O-III/OVD-001
03	1916	DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE 1-O-V/DDO-001
04	1935	DOUBLED DIE REVERSE 1-R-IV/DDR-001

THE ELITE EIGHT :

THE FAB FOUR PLUS-

05	1917	DOUBLED DIE REVERSE 1-R-IV/DDR-001
06	1936-D	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO
07	1913-1	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO
08	1936	DOUBLED DIE REVERSE 1-R-II/DDR-001

THE DIRTY DOZEN :

THE FAB FOUR & ELITE EIGHT PLUS-

09	1914	DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE 4/3 #01 & #02
10	1926-D	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO
11	1927-D	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO
12	1917-D	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO

THE SWEET SIXTEEN :

THE FAB FOUR, ELITE EIGHT & DIRTY DOZEN PLUS-

13	1936	DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE 1-O-VI/DDO-001
14	1930	DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE 6-O-1V/DDO-006
15	1916-D	3 ½ LEGGED BUFFALO
16	1938-D	D OVER S #01 & #02

THE TOP TWENTY :

ALL OF THE ABOVE PLUS-

17	1913-S-1	2 FEATHER + NO F
18	1915	DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE 1-O-1V/DDO-001
19	1926	DDO 2-O-V/DDO-002+DDR 1-R-1V/DDR-002
20	1936-S	S OVER S RPM #01

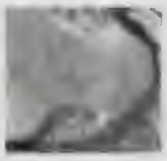
10 DOUBLED DIES; **1** OVER MINT MARK; **1** REPUNCHED MINT MARK; **8** ABRADED DIES

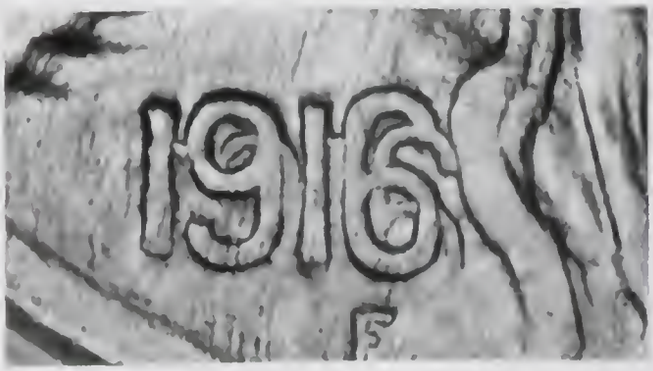
PART FIVE

THE 1916 1-O-V DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE

Though this book is primarily about the abraded dies for this series, the author has decided to create a section on the 1916 1-O-V/DDO 001 Doubled Die variety from an historical perspective. In the author's opinion, when both rarity and eye appeal are considered, this is the most desirable variety in the entire series. It is also considered by most collectors to be the rarest regular issue, non-gold coin of the 20th century with fewer than 250 specimens in all grades currently known.

WIDELY COLLECTED DOUBLED DIES & VARIETIES—THE "FAB FOUR."





A Overdated 1916 Nickel (?)

Illustrated is the date element of a 1916 nickel owned by Herbert S. Perlin, Pomona, Calif.

This coin has 1916 over 1916. The position of the two dates precludes the possibility of a metal run due to an out-of-level die. Then, too, there is no evidence of doubling on other portions of the coin therefore ruling out a doubled die created during the hubbing process.

This leaves the alternate explanation of the date turning out weak and to save the die the date was recut by hand.

A letter to the "Circulation Finds" column in the July, 1962 issue of the "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine about the 1916 Doubled Die nickel. This is generally accepted as the first published report of the variety. In the author's opinion, it's quite surprising how the other strongly doubled design elements-the ribbon ties, braid, feather tips, and neck-could be overlooked. This oversight seems to be responsible for the incorrectly stated cause of the doubling.

See the subsequent information and further reports of the coin on the following pages.

Second Specimen of Recut 1916 Buffalo Nickel Reported

Wm. S. Bailey, Tulsa, Okla., was passing thru Tucson, Arizona this past February and stopped in Jim Reynold's Coin Shop for a visit. While there he purchased an uncirculated 1916 nickel.

When Mr. Bailey received the July issue of NSM and noticed the illustration of Mr. Perlin's coin (page 1895) he examined his a bit more closely and discovered another specimen of the recut date—and an uncirculated one to boot!

More Double-Date 1916 Nickels Reported

Enclosed find photo of my 1916 double-die nickel. The shift is just as noticeable as that of the 1955 cent until the coin has seen considerable wear. I have heard of only a few being reported although many must have been circulated and worn to the point where the double features were no longer noticeable. In 1916 every coin was not looked at under a 10-power glass as they are today.

I know 2 such coins in California, 1 in Oklahoma, and in 1962 Bernard Gimelson of Philadelphia had shown one at the ANA Convention in L.A.

—Donald B. Huber,
East Petersburg, Pa.

(Ed. note: The first specimen of the 1916 double-date was reported in July 1962 NSM by Herbert Perlin, Pomona, Calif. In August issue, Wm. S. Bailey, Tulsa, Okla. reported owning a specimen and in Sept., A. E. Davis, Charlestown, N.H. reported a specimen.)

Two more reports of the 1916 Doubled Die Buffalo Nickel from the August, 1962 and January, 1965 issues of "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine. Note that by the 1965 reporting it was described as a "double" die instead of a recut date.

BUFFALO NICKEL — XF

Discovery Piece 1916/1916

Two or three of these have been found since this coin was purchased.

BARBER DIME

1893 over 1892 Unc.

Second known specimen

Finest known

Prices on Request

BERNARD GIMELSON

37 South 18th Street

Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

LO 3-4232

SAY YOU SAW IT IN THE NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE PAGE 2907

An advertisement from the October, 1962 issue of the "Numismatic Scrapbook" magazine offering the newly reported variety (and an 1893/92 Barber Dime) for sale. A quote from Mr Gimelson's son Bruce after an email inquiry by the author in September, 2012:

Good Evening,
I remember the coin quite well, and think I even have the Capital plastic holder my father had made for it. For some reason I think the price was about $1500-$2,000.

This was extraordinarily high price for that era for a variety coin.

Whitman "Redbook" Survey

Whitman Publishing Co., Racine, Wisc. sent questionnaires to 3500 persons requesting opinions and suggestions for next edition of Red

R. S. Yeoman

Book (Guide Book of U.S. Coins). Approximately 1000 replied.

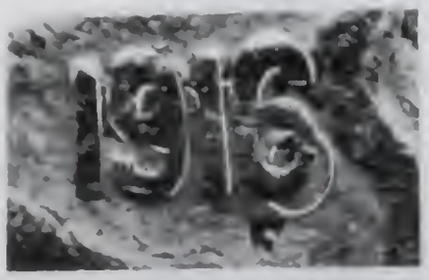
The Questions, Answers and Decisions are as follows:

1. How often do you purchase a copy of the Guide Book?
   998 answers were received for this question. 829 bought the book every year, 111 bought it every other year and 58 bought it less frequently. Some stated that they bought more than one book a year.
2. Please give your opinions about the revisions and prices in the 16th edition Guide Book.
   Almost everyone answered this question. Most gave praise to the grading guide and the moving of the mintage figures from the back of the book up to the dates of the coins in their proper section. There was also constructive criticism concerning the grading guide, prices, photos and grade columns.
3. Do you find the new grading guide helpful? Is it adequate?
   There were 963 answers to this question. Of that number 939 replied yes and only 24 replied no. On the second part of the question most said it was adequate for their needs; the others said that it wasn't and that it should be expanded to cover all grades of all series. Those who had replied no to the first part said that it should be removed entirely because it did not serve its purpose.
4. List changes that you feel would improve the usefulness of the Guide Book.
   Everyone who answered this question gave his own personal opinion on what he thought would improve the Red Book. Some of the the opinions stated were: more historical information, adding or taking out of fidos, minor varieties, more grading, more realistic prices, yearly supplement, index tabs and separate section for mint errors.
5. Vote on any of the following items that you feel should be added to the book:
   A. 1942D over horizontal D nickel
      Yes—228; No—595.
   B. 1955-D over S nickel
      Yes—364; No—488.
   C. 1961-D over horizontal D cent
      Yes—275; No—576.
   D. 1867 over small 67 Indian cent
      Yes—295; No—524.
   E. 1905-O dimes with large and small mint mark
      Yes—292; No—535.
   F. 1916 Nickel with doubled obverse die
      Yes—237; No—573.
   G. 1939 nickel with doubled reverse die
      Yes—263; No—545.
   H. 1878 silver dollar with reverse of 1879 (slanted arrow feathers)
      Yes—267; No—519.
   I. 1879-S silver dollar with reverse of 1878 (parallel arrow feathers)
      Yes—266; No—519.

Shown above is a poll taken in May, 1963 on which varieties should be included in the "Guide Book" (Red Book) of US coins. It seems quite possible that the 1916 Doubled Die could have been listed therein a full 15 years before it actually did appear in 1978. Note how many doubled dies and varieties were voted down. Unlike today, only a few doubled dies were popularized or in demand. By far the leading variety of the time was the 1955 Doubled Die Lincoln cent, but also popular were the various 20th century overdates such as the 1918-D nickel and 1918-S quarter and the 1942/41 P and D dimes. This article is from the May, 1963 issue of NSM.

THE 1916 DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE

1916	All Kinds	63,498,000	.50	2.25	12.00



1916 P DOUBLE DATE

1913 SHIVERING BUFFALO TYPE II ON PLANE

1916 P double date	—	12.00	27.00	75.00

To the best of the author's knowledge, the 1916 Doubled Die Obverse was first listed in a reference guide in Frank Spadone's "Variety and Oddity Guide" in the early 1960s, beginning with the second edition in 1963. (The author has no idea what a "shivering Buffalo" is.)

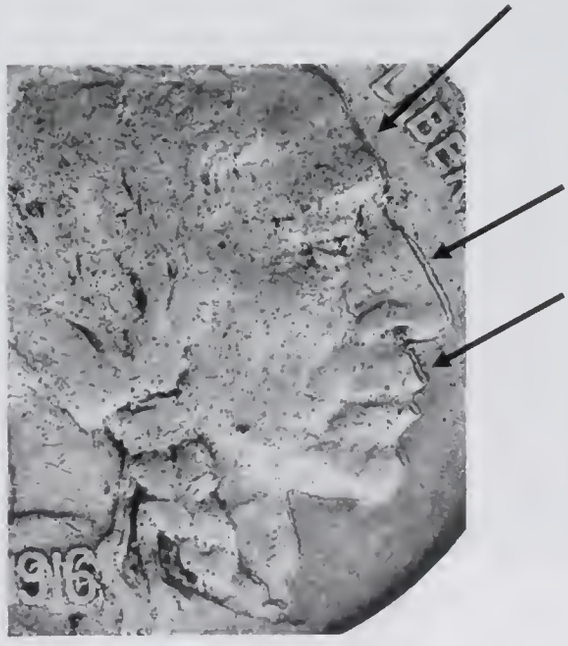
BUFFALO NICKELS 1913-1938

Index #	Date	Description	Mintage	Good	Fine	Unc.

1913 DOUBLE PROFILE

1916 DOUBLE DATE

By the fourth edition in 1967 values had increased substantially but the variety was still incorrectly listed as a "double date" instead of a doubled die.



The 1916 Doubled Die Obverse is found without additional machine or strike doubling (above-left) and also with very evident machine doubling (above-right) in addition to the true hub doubling. This machine doubling is often confused for hub doubling but, in actuality, is of little or no consequence.

the COIN DEALER newsletter

MONTHLY SUMMARY AND COMPLETE SERIES PRICING GUIDE

SEPTEMBER - 1976

Vol. 1 No. 2 Single copy price $2.00

THE RARE "1916/16-P" BUFFALO NICKEL

Several subscribers have written to us since publication of the first CDN Monthly Summary to ask about the "1916/16-P" listing which appears in the Buffalo nickel price chart on page five. The above exclusive photograph is of an uncirculated example of the coin in question. As the picture shows, this is not a mere "recut date"---but a sharply doubled date much like the 1955/55 Lincoln cent (and more pronounced than the 1972/72 version). However, since the 1916/16-P nickel is not listed in the Redbook, relatively few dealers or collectors know of its existence. A few knowledge numismatists---including, of course, most "Buffalo buffs"---have been on the lookout for specimens for a long time. They have---on widely scattered occasions---been able to locate circulated pieces for the very low common date price.

Actually, circulated specimens are quite scarce---and uncirculated examples are rare. Estimates of the number of extant BU 1916/16-P's range from as few as three to perhaps "as many" as a dozen! Current bid prices are: $60 VG, $150 Fine, $200 VF, $350 XF, $500 AU, $800 MS-60 and $1350 MS-65. These bids are the actual buying prices of a major teletype dealer who specializes in "errors". This firm, according to a spokesman, has located only four or five pieces during the past two years of searching---and none were in mint state.

Perhaps the above photograph will prompt dealers and collectors to look more closely at circ 1916 P nickels-- and, as a result, more specimens may enter the marketplace. The 1916/16 P Buffalo is probably at least as scarce as the 1918/17-D in the various circulated grades—and is even more rare in uncirculated condition. The only actual sale of a BU example in recent years that

(continued on page two)

THE RARE "1916/16-P" BUFFALO NICKEL

(continued from page one)

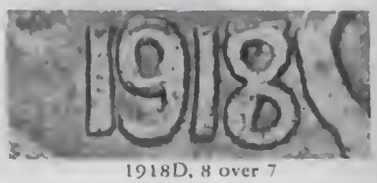
the CDN has been able to trace was in the $2000 area---and it was not determined where this particular coin fell on the MS-60/MS-65 grading scale. The glamour of an "overdate", of course, exceeds that of a "double die". This, along with the fact that far fewer people are aware of the existence of the 1916/16-P, accounts for the much higher bids recorded for all grades of the 1918/17-D. Serious collectors of Buffalo nickels, however, will have a considerably more difficult time locating the still lower priced double die!

	GOOD		VG		FINE		VF		XF		AU		UNC MS 60		Ch BU MS 65	
	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK	BID	ASK
LIBERTY NICKELS	Complete set, G VG BID $145 ASK $160															
1883 NC	1.25	1.40	1.35	1.50	1.65	1.85	2.50	2.80	4.00	4.50	8.00	8.25	20.00	22.50	45.00	50.00
1883 WC	3.50	4.00	4.00	4.50	6.00	6.75	10.00	11.50	16.00	16.00	30.00	34.00	47.50	52.50	110.00	122.50
1884	4.00	4.60	4.60	5.10	7.25	8.10	11.00	12.50	16.00	20.00	34.00	38.00	52.50	57.50	120.00	135.00
1885	72.00	79.50	91.00	100.00	130.00	145.00	145.00	160.00	170.00	190.00	200.00	225.00	230.00	260.00	310.00	350.00
1886	22.50	25.00	26.00	29.00	45.00	49.50	61.00	68.00	62.50	91.00	106.00	117.50	130.00	145.00	179.00	196.00
1887	3.00	2.40	3.75	4.25	6.25	7.00	9.50	10.75	16.00	16.00	29.00	31.50	47.50	57.50	100.00	110.00
1888	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.25	8.50	9.35	11.50	13.00	19.00	21.50	35.00	39.00	60.00	67.50	116.00	127.50
1889	2.25	2.60	2.75	3.10	5.50	6.10	8.50	10.75	16.00	18.00	30.00	34.00	50.00	56.00	100.00	110.00
1890	2.75	3.10	3.35	2.75	6.25	7.00	10.00	11.60	17.50	19.50	22.00	26.00	52.00	58.00	105.00	115.00
1891	2.10	2.35	2.65	3.00	6.35	6.90	8.00	10.75	15.00	17.00	30.00	34.00	50.00	56.00	100.00	110.00
1892	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.10	5.65	6.25	10.50	12.00	16.00	20.00	33.00	37.00	52.00	58.00	105.00	115.00
1893	1.90	2.10	2.25	2.50	5.50	6.10	9.50	10.75	17.00	19.00	31.00	35.00	50.00	55.00	100.00	110.00
1894	3.25	3.60	4.25	4.75	7.50	8.35	12.00	13.50	21.00	23.50	36.00	40.00	60.00	67.50	115.00	127.50
1895	1.35	1.45	1.50	1.65	4.50	5.00	6.50	8.50	16.00	16.00	30.00	34.00	47.50	52.50	100.00	110.00
1896	1.50	1.70	2.00	2.25	5.75	6.35	10.50	13.00	19.00	21.50	33.00	36.00	55.00	61.50	115.00	127.50
1897	40	50	55	65	2.00	2.75	4.25	4.75	12.00	13.50	26.00	29.00	42.50	47.50	95.00	105.00
1898	45	55	60	70	2.25	2.50	4.75	5.25	13.00	14.50	28.00	21.00	45.00	50.00	100.00	110.00
1899	--	--	40	50	1.10	1.20	3.70	4.20	10.50	12.00	23.00	29.00	29.00	47.00	88.00	96.50
1900-08	--	--	40	50	1.00	1.20	3.50	4.00	10.00	11.50	22.00	24.50	37.00	41.00	65.00	93.50
1909	35	40	45	55	1.25	1.50	4.00	4.50	11.50	13.00	25.00	28.00	41.00	45.00	90.00	98.50
1910-12	--	--	40	50	1.00	1.70	3.50	4.00	10.00	11.50	22.00	24.50	37.00	41.00	88.00	83.50
1912 D	45	55	60	70	1.85	2.10	5.50	6.10	29.00	22.50	60.00	67.50	100.00	110.00	175.00	198.00
1912 S	21.50	23.50	24.00	26.50	30.00	33.50	48.00	53.00	115.00	127.50	190.00	215.00	300.00	340.00	490.00	--
BUFFALO NICKELS	Complete set (no 18/17), G/better BID $180 ASK $160															
1913 P (I)	1.50	1.70	1.75	2.00	2.50	3.00	4.00	4.65	7.50	6.50	12.50	14.00	16.00	20.00	34.00	36.00
1913 D (I)	3.25	3.65	2.75	4.25	4.25	4.75	5.50	6.25	8.50	9.50	18.00	17.00	23.00	26.00	40.00	45.00
1913 S (I)	4.25	4.75	5.00	5.60	6.25	7.00	9.00	10.00	13.00	14.50	21.00	23.50	30.00	34.00	52.50	57.50
1913 P (II)	1.75	1.95	1.95	2.20	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	5.25	5.75	9.00	10.00	15.00	17.00	28.00	31.50
1913 D (II)	16.00	17.00	16.50	21.00	22.00	26.00	20.00	34.00	36.00	42.00	50.00	65.00	65.00	72.50	90.00	100.00
1913 S (II)	27.00	30.00	32.00	36.00	38.00	43.00	47.50	52.50	65.00	72.00	82.00	90.00	100.00	110.00	150.00	170.00
1914 P	2.35	2.60	2.70	3.00	3.25	3.65	4.00	4.50	6.50	7.25	11.00	12.50	20.00	22.50	35.00	39.50
1914 D	14.50	15.25	16.50	16.50	21.00	23.50	21.00	35.00	43.00	47.50	60.00	67.50	66.00	96.00	140.00	187.50
1914 S	2.85	3.20	3.35	3.75	4.75	5.25	7.50	8.35	12.00	13.50	21.00	23.50	34.00	38.00	67.50	75.00
1915 P	85	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.75	2.00	3.00	3.40	5.50	6.10	10.00	11.50	16.00	20.00	32.00	36.00
1915 D	3.35	3.75	4.25	4.75	7.00	7.65	11.00	12.50	16.00	18.00	25.00	28.00	45.00	50.00	100.00	110.00
1915 S	5.50	6.10	6.25	7.00	12.00	13.50	21.00	23.50	32.00	36.00	52.50	57.50	85.00	95.00	180.00	200.00
1916 P	40	50	50	60	80	95	1.40	1.65	2.50	2.85	6.00	7.00	12.00	13.50	26.00	29.00
1916/16-P	--	--	60.00	--	150.00	--	200.00	--	360.00	--	600.00	--	600.00	--	1350.00	--
1916 D	2.65	2.20	2.35	3.75	5.00	5.65	6.00	9.00	12.50	14.00	31.00	23.50	40.00	45.00	90.00	100.00
1916 S	1.70	1.90	2.10	2.35	3.50	3.90	5.75	7.00	12.00	12.50	21.00	23.50	40.00	45.00	105.00	117.50
1917 P	40	50	55	65	90	1.05	1.75	2.00	4.50	5.00	9.50	10.50	17.00	19.00	30.00	34.00
1917 D	2.65	3.95	3.15	2.50	6.00	8.75	16.00	20.00	26.00	29.00	40.00	45.00	75.00	62.50	140.00	160.00
1917 S	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.10	6.00	6.75	15.00	17.00	25.00	28.00	45.00	50.00	95.00	105.00	215.00	240.00
1918 P	40	50	60	70	1.10	1.25	2.75	3.10	7.50	8.50	19.00	21.50	32.00	36.00	65.00	72.50
1918/17 D	120.00	135.00	165.00	210.00	295.00	220.00	675.00	635.00	975.00	1100.00	2000.00	--	4500.00	--	9500.00	--
1918 D	2.85	3.20	2.35	2.75	6.75	7.50	18.50	22.00	32.00	36.00	65.00	81.50	150.00	170.00	325.00	366.00
1918 S	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.10	6.00	6.75	16.00	18.00	28.00	31.50	50.00	56.00	120.00	135.00	235.00	265.00
1919 P	30	40	35	45	50	60	1.10	1.25	3.50	4.00	7.50	8.50	14.00	16.00	30.00	34.00
1919 D	2.75	2.10	2.25	3.65	7.00	7.65	22.00	25.00	40.00	45.00	65.00	72.50	180.00	160.00	250.00	295.00
1919 S	1.50	1.70	2.00	2.25	4.50	5.00	14.00	16.00	31.00	35.00	45.00	50.00	110.00	125.00	310.00	350.00
1920 P	30	40	35	45	50	60	1.10	1.25	3.60	4.00	7.50	8.50	14.00	16.00	30.00	34.00
1920 D	2.00	2.25	2.75	2.10	4.50	5.00	20.00	23.50	34.00	36.00	49.00	54.50	150.00	170.00	250.00	395.00
1920 S	1.00	1.15	1.50	1.75	3.10	3.50	13.00	15.00	32.00	36.00	45.00	54.50	130.00	125.00	325.00	365.00
1921 P	40	50	55	65	1.00	1.15	3.50	3.90	10.00	11.50	21.00	22.50	36.00	40.00	50.00	67.50
1921 S	6.75	7.75	6.75	9.75	14.00	18.00	26.00	40.00	75.00	62.50	150.00	170.00	250.00	260.00	400.00	450.00
1923 P	--	--	30	40	45	55	1.00	1.15	3.50	3.90	7.00	6.00	14.00	16.00	30.00	34.00
1923 S	75	90	1.15	1.30	2.25	2.50	11.00	12.50	25.00	28.00	40.00	45.00	122.00	135.00	300.00	340.00
1924 P	25	35	40	50	60	70	1.50	1.75	4.00	4.50	10.00	11.50	21.00	23.50	50.00	56.50
1924 D	1.40	1.60	2.00	2.25	2.90	4.00	16.00	16.00	27.00	30.00	49.00	54.50	125.00	190.00	330.00	270.00
1924 S	2.65	3.00	3.25	3.65	6.75	7.50	36.00	40.00	80.00	89.50	165.00	185.00	385.00	425.00	825.00	925.00
1925 P	--	--	30	40	45	55	1.00	1.15	3.25	3.65	6.50	7.25	12.50	14.25	27.00	30.00
1925 D	2.10	2.25	3.00	3.40	6.25	7.00	16.00	20.00	21.00	36.00	60.00	87.50	130.00	145.00	310.00	250.00
1925 S	1.00	1.15	1.30	1.50	3.25	3.65	9.00	10.00	21.00	23.50	36.00	40.00	100.00	112.00	285.00	370.00
1926 P	--	--	--	--	35	45	70	85	2.25	2.50	5.00	5.65	11.00	12.50	24.00	27.00
1926 D	1.10	1.30	1.75	3.00	5.25	6.00	16.00	20.00	36.00	40.00	56.00	61.50	110.00	125.00	800.00	675.00
1926 S	3.00	3.40	4.00	4.50	7.25	8.00	24.00	27.00	50.00	89.50	125.00	140.00	270.00	300.00	675.00	760.00
1927 P	--	--	--	--	35	45	70	65	2.25	2.50	5.00	8.65	11.00	12.50	24.00	27.00
1927 D	50	60	65	75	1.30	1.50	5.25	6.00	12.00	12.50	18.00	21.50	40.00	45.00	75.00	62.50
1927 S	35	45	42	50	75	90	4.00	4.50	19.00	21.50	36.00	40.00	100.00	112.00	255.00	295.00
1928 P	--	--	--	--	40	50	75	90	2.25	2.50	5.00	5.55	11.00	12.50	24.00	27.00
1928 D	40	50	50	60	85	1.00	2.50	2.50	5.00	5.65	9.00	10.00	16.00	18.00	31.00	35.00
1928 S	30	40	40	50	70	85	1.20	1.40	5.00	5.65	13.00	14.50	36.00	40.00	85.00	94.50
1929 P	-	--	--	--	35	45	70	85	2.00	2.25	4.50	5.00	9.00	10.00	15.00	17.50
1929 D	40	50	50	60	75	90	2.25	2.50	3.50	3.50	7.00	8.00	16.00	20.00	50.00	57.50
1929 S	--	--	30	40	35	45	70	85	2.25	2.50	6.00	6.75	16.00	18.00	35.00	40.00
1930 P	--	--	--	--	35	45	65	75	1.75	2.00	4.00	4.50	6.00	9.00	17.00	19.00
1930 S	--	--	30	40	25	45	70	65	2.00	2.25	8.00	6.75	16.00	20.00	48.00	50.00
1931 S	2.20	2.25	2.20	2.45	2.40	2.55	2.75	2.00	5.50	6.00	12.00	13.50	25.00	26.00	38.00	42.50
1937 D 3 leg	38.00	42.00	42.00	46.00	47.00	52.50	54.00	59.00	64.00	70.00	82.00	90.00	220.00	225.00	450.00	--

(This and the previous page) A write-up on the 1916 DDO in the Sept 1976 issue of the "Coin Dealer Newsletter-Monthly Summary." This is where the coin achieved it's notoriety. From this point on, it became a well known and widely accepted mainstream variety. Values are shown above, and those stated in the article ($2000) may have been from the sale of the variety seen on Page N-05. A listing first appeared in the "Guide Book of U.S. Coins" in 1978.

	Quan. Minted	Good	V G.	Fine	V.F.	E.F.	Unc.	Matte Proof
1913 Var. 1								
(1,520)	30,993,520	$2.50	$3.00	$3.75	$6.00	$9.75	$30.00	$425.00
1913D Var. 1	5,337,000	5.00	5.75	6.50	8.00	12.50	38.00	
1913S Var. 1	2,105,000	6.00	7.50	9.75	13.50	18.25	47.50	
Variety 2 — FIVE CENTS Recessed								
1913 Var. 2								
(1,514)	29,858,700	2.85	3.50	4.50	5.00	8.00	26.00	425.00
1913D Var. 2	4,156,000	22.50	26.50	33.00	42.00	50.00	90.00	
1913S Var. 2	1,209,000	39.00	45.00	60.00	70.00	80.00	145.00	
1914 (1,275)	20,665,738	3.75	4.50	5.75	7.00	13.50	32.00	400.00
1914D	3,912,000	19.50	25.00	33.50	45.00	57.50	140.00	
1914S	3,470,000	4.50	5.50	8.00	11.50	19.00	85.00	
1915 (1,050)	20,987,270	1.75	2.50	3.25	5.50	11.50	30.00	400.00
1915D	7,569,500	5.50	7.00	11.25	16.50	25.00	80.00	
1915S	1,505,000	8.00	11.00	22.50	35.00	52.50	160.00	
1916 (600)	63,498,066	.75	1.00	1.75	2.50	6.50	22.50	500.00
1916 Doubled date								
1916D	13,333,000	4.50	5.50	7.50	11.50	19.00	80.00	
1916S	11,860,000	3.00	4.00	6.00	10.50	19.00	100.00	
1917	51,424,029	.85	1.25	1.90	3.00	10.00	30.00	
1917D	9,910,800	3.50	5.50	9.25	25.00	45.00	140.00	
1917S	4,193,000	3.25	5.50	9.25	25.00	45.00	175.00	
1918	32,086,314	.85	1.50	2.75	6.00	12.50	60.00	
1918D, 8 over 7	8,362,000	160.00	265.00	450.00	800.00	1,700	9,000	
1918D		3.50	5.50	10.00	30.00	55.00	225.00	

Mint mark below FIVE CENTS.

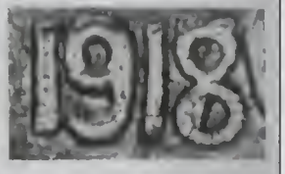


1918D, 8 over 7

The 1916 DDO was first listed in the 1978 "Red Book" where it was referred to as a "doubled date." Note that no values were listed for the variety.

	Quan. Minted	G-4	VG-8	F-12	VF-20	EF-40	MS-60	Matte Proof
1913 Var. 1								
(1,520)	30,993,520	$ 2.50	$ 3.25	$ 4.00	$ 6.50	$ 10.00	$ 35.00	$500.00
1913D Var. 1	5,337,000	5.50	6.00	7.00	8.50	14.00	42.50	
1913S Var. 1	2,105,000	6.25	8.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	60.00	
Variety 2 — FIVE CENTS Recessed								
1913 Var. 2								
(1,514)	29,858,700	3.00	3.75	4.75	6.00	9.00	30.00	425.00
1913D Var. 2	4,156,000	25.00	30.00	35.00	45.00	55.00	100.00	
1913S Var. 2	1,209,000	41.00	47.50	62.50	72.00	90.00	175.00	
1914 (1,275)	20,665,738	3.75	4.50	5.75	7.00	13.50	35.00	400.00
1914D	3,912,000	19.50	25.00	33.50	45.00	57.50	150.00	
1914S	3,470,000	4.50	5.50	8.00	11.50	19.00	90.00	
1915 (1,050)	20,987,270	1.75	2.50	3.25	5.50	11.50	35.00	400.00
1915D	7,569,000	5.50	7.00	11.25	16.50	25.00	90.00	
1915S	1,505,000	8.00	11.00	22.50	35.00	52.50	165.00	
1916 (600)	63,198,066	.75	1.00	1.75	2.50	6.50	27.50	500.00
1916 Doubled die obv.					275.00	400.00	750.00	
1916D	13,333,000	4.50	5.50	7.50	11.50	19.00	82.00	
1916S	11,860,000	3.00	4.00	6.00	10.50	19.00	100.00	
1917	51,424,019	.85	1.25	1.90	3.00	10.00	35.00	
1917D	9,910,000	3.50	5.50	9.25	25.00	45.00	140.00	
1917S	4,193,000	3.25	5.50	9.25	25.00	45.00	175.00	
1918	32,086,314	.85	1.50	2.75	6.00	12.50	60.00	
1918D, 8 over 7	8,362,000	165.00	275.00	475.00	900.00	1,850	9,500	
1918D		3.50	5.50	10.00	30.00	55.00	250.00	
1918S	4,882,000	3.00	4.75	9.50	26.50	52.50	225.00	

Mint mark below FIVE CENTS. 1916 Doubled die obverse



1918D, 8 over 7

Here it was listed, illustrated for the first time, and described correctly as a doubled die in the 1980 edition of the "Red Book." The listed values were quite moderate—though it was (and still is) much tougher than the 1918-D 8/7—it was not nearly as widely collected and was therefore much lower priced.

Lot 1853 2005 September Long Beach Signature Auction #384

Sold for:	**$264,500.00** (includes BP ?)
	Bid Source: Internet bidder
Auction Ended On:	Sep 22, 2005
Item Activity:	10 Internet/mail/phone bidders ?
	3,532 page views

Description:
Condition Census 1916 Doubled Die Buffalo Nickel
1916 5C Doubled Die Obverse MS64 PCGS. FS-016, Breen-2599. Listed on page 128 of the 2006 *Guide Book*. Although popular today, this Buffalo Nickel error remained unknown for more than four decades after its production. The first published report (per Lange, 2000) appeared in the July, 1962 edition of *The Numismatic Scrapbook*. Today, circulated examples number only 100-150 coins. Mint State representatives are even rarer, and Lange's estimate is no more than 10 pieces. PCGS reports six Uncirculated examples, all falling into the MS 62-64 grade range (8/05), and NGC has seen a further eight coins graded MS63 through MS64. Given the rarity of this error nickel in Mint State, the attractive example that we highlight here should be of obvious importance to advanced Buffalo nickel collectors. The surfaces have been carefully preserved with a colorful endowment of greenish-gray patina over both sides. This deepens to antique-gold and crimson near the peripheral areas. We have no complaints about the sharp striking quality, save for a small amount of detail at the central regions. The boldly doubled digits in the date are readily evident to the naked eye. The fields and devices are smooth enough to warrant consideration even at the MS65 grade level, but accuracy compels us to mention a single, small corrosion spot on the obverse just before the Indian's chin. The latter feature notwithstanding, we unhesitatingly declare this coin as one of the finest known survivors of this rare and popular 20th century error. Population: 2 in 64, 0 finer (8/05).(#3931) (Registry values: N10218) (#3931)

Shown above is an auction result and write-up from Heritage Auctions in September, 2005 where a PCGS MS64-tied for the finest known-sold for $264,500. This same coin-or another in the same grade-reportedly sold for over $300,000 in 2007. The figures quoted above for Mint State pieces extant in the census is almost certainly considerably inflated due to re-submissions in hopes of a higher grade. If an MS65 were ever to be slabbed it probably be worth in excess of half a million dollars.

THE 1916 DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE

Auction results for the finest known of the variety (MS64)

Some of these are doubtlessly resubmissions of the same coin in hopes of getting a higher grade. From comparisons of images of these coins it appears that a total of only three or possibly four may be known in MS64 with none in MS65. *This variety is believed to be the most valuable 20th century regular issue non-gold U.S. coin.*

DATE OF AUCTION	GRADE AND SERVICE	PRICE REALIZED
01-2012	NGC MS64	172,500
05-2009	PCGS MS64	184,000
01-2009	PCGS MS64	195,500
09-2004	PCGS MS64	245,000
07-2013	PCGS MS64	253,000
09-2005	PCGS MS64	264,400
04-2008	NGC MS64	276,000
08-2004	PCGS MS64	281,750
11-2007	PCGS MS64	316,250

****

BUFFALO NICKELS

1913-S Var 2	$150.00
1914-D	$140.00
1915-S	$175.00
1916-P	$25.00
1916-P Double Die	QUOTE
1917-P	$30.00
1917-S	$175.00
1918-P	$50.00
1918-D	$250.00
1918/7	$8,500.00
1918-S	$175.00
1919-D	$300.00
1919-S	$250.00
1920-D	$300.00
1920-S	$300.00
1921-P	$75.00
1921-S	$300.00
1924-P	$50.00
1924-D	$325.00
1924-S	$800.00
1925-D	$300.00
1925-S	$275.00
1926-D	$600.00
1926-S	$600.00
1927-D	$60.00
1927-S	$300.00
1928-D	$30.00
1928-S	$75.00
1929-D	$30.00
1935-D	$40.00

Two wanted to buy advertisements for the 1916 doubled die Buffalo Nickel-on the left by Numismatics LTD from November, 1975 and on the right from December, 1982. Note in the latter it was called a "double date."

THE 1916 DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE

Auction results for the finest known of the variety (MS64)

Some of these are doubtlessly resubmissions of the same coin in hopes of getting a higher grade. From comparisons of images of these coins it appears that a total of only three or possibly four may be known in MS64 with none in MS65. *This variety is believed to be the most valuable 20th century regular issue non-gold U.S. coin.*

DATE OF AUCTION	GRADE AND SERVICE	PRICE REALIZED
01-2012	NGC MS64	172,500
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09-2005	PCGS MS64	264,400
04-2008	NGC MS64	276,000
08-2004	PCGS MS64	281,750
11-2007	PCGS MS64	316,250

****

The date need not be clear to identify this variety. Shown here is a PCGS slabbed Good-04 coin with a weak date. Note the easily seen doubling on the feathers, ribbon ties, braid, neck, and chin.

A SUMMARY OF VALUES

THE MAJOR ADE VARIETIES AND THE 1914 4/3 OVERDATES WITH CHANGES IN VALUE (▲ or ▼) 08-2016 ▲▼

*=A TRUE 2F VARIETY

This page will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated when there is a change in value from the last printing for any of the coins listed below. Prices in *italics* are estimates.

2F VARIETIES >>

#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
01	1913-D	R	$ 20	$ 30	$ 50▲	$ 80▲	$ 115▲	$ 140▲	$ 175	$ 250	$ 350	$ ---
	VAR 1	S	---	---	---	---	150▲	200▲	250	400	650	1250
02*	1915	R	20	30	50	175	300	500	---	---	---	---
		S	65	100	130	215	375	550	875	1150	1650	---
03*	1915-D	R	50	85	125	200	300	400	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
04*	1916	R	5	8	15▲	30▼	50▼	100▼	135▼	200▼	350	---
		S	---	---	---	65▼	90▼	135▼	175▼	300▼	775▲	1250
05*	1916-S	R	75▲	85▲	125▲	200▲	300	400	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
06*	1917	R	20	30	45	65	115	180	325	---	---	---
		S	---	50	100	200	400	750	1000	2000	---	---
07	1917-D	R	20	40	85	250	400	650	850	1150	---	---
		S	40	70	150	---	---	2000	---	---	---	---
08*	1917-S	R	25	35	85	135	400	525	650	---	---	---
		S	50	85	150	300	500	750▲	1150	1750	3000	---
09*	1918	R	25	50	70	125	150▼	350▼	1000	---	---	---
		S	50	85	110	175▲	525▲	1500	2000	3250	13000	---
#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
10*	1918-S	R	20	30	100	225▼	450	750	---	---	---	---
		S	50	100	150▼	275▼	600▼	*1150*	*2750*	4250	---	---
11*	1919	R	7	10	20	50	100	200	300	375	---	---
		S	35	65	85	165	265	425	700	850	1850	---
12*	1919-D	R	50	75	135	275	425	600	---	----	---	---
		S	85	165	240	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
13	1919-S	R	35	75	125	300	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	170	---	650	---	---	---	---	---
14	1920	R	10	15	30	50	85	115	200	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	165	---		1250	2250	---	---
15	1920-D	R	25	40	85	350	500	850	1250	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
16*	1920-S	R	15	20	85	200	400	700	---	---	---	---
		S	65	85	135	250	550	800	1750	6000	---	---
17*	1921	R	10▲	20▲	40▲	85▲	125▲	165▲	200	400	600	1750
		S	25	35	65	115	250	500	750▼	1000▼	1750	2500
18*	1921-S	R	50	115	250	650	1350	1950	2250	3000	---	---
		S	100	200	300	750	1550	2150	2650	3350	---	---
#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
19*	1923	R	50▲	75▲	100▲	175▲	250▲	400▲	600▲	850▲	1000▲	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
20	1925-D	R	35	75	115	225	450	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	250	350	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
21*	1925-S	R	20	30	50	175	275	400	---	---	---	---
		S	30	40	75	250	400▼	500▼	---	---	5250	---
22*	1926-D	R	25	45	75▼	115▼	250▼	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	100▼	135▼	325▼	---	---	---	---	---
23	1927-D	R	25	35	50	75	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
24	1927-S	R	15	20	40	85	150	325	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	135	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
25	1928-S	R	15	25	35	65	175	400	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1150	---	---
26*	1929-S	R	5	10	25	60	85	125	400	625	850	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	475	650	1150	1500	3500
27*	1930-S	R	15	25	40	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	35	75	150	215	425	---	---	---	---	---

A SUMMARY OF VALUES

THE MAJOR ADE VARIETIES AND THE 1914 4/3 OVERDATES WITH CHANGES IN VALUE (▲ or ▼) 08-2016 ▲▼

This page will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated when there is a change in value from the last printing for any of the coins listed below. Prices in *italics* are estimates.

2FNF VARIETIES >>

#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
01	1913-S	R	$ ---	$ ---	$ 225	$ 350	$ 550	$ 700	$ 925	$1150	$ ---	$ ---
	VAR 1	S	---	---	---	---	600	750	1000	1350	3000	5000
02	1916	R	10	25	35	50	100	165	225	350	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	650	---
03	1917-S	R	30	50	90	225	350	500	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3000	---
04	1918	R	25	40	65	100	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	925
05	1918-S	R	50	80	100	300	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
06	1919	R	15	25	50	85	175	225	300	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
07	1920	R	35	50	80	115	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
08	1921-S	R	125	200	325	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3HL VARIETIES >>

#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
01	1913	R	$ 200	$ 400	$ 650	$ 900	$1250	$1750	$2650	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
	VAR 1	S	---	---	---	---	---	2750	4500	7500	12500	47500
02	1916-D	R	45	85▲	150▲	250	425	1000	1350	1800	---	---
		S	---	---	---	450	*700*	2000	---	---	---	---
03	1917-D	R	65	100	175	275	400	1000	---	---	---	---
		S	85	135	175	325	650	1150	2650	3500	7500	---
04	1926-D	R	40	65	115	175	400	800	---	---	---	---
		S	75	125	225	425	825	975	---	---	---	6750
05	1927-D	R	40	65	100▼	200	400▼	850	---	---	---	---
		S	65	85▼	145▼	275▼	500▼	1250	6500	9000	13500	---
06	1936-D	R	300	40	750	1500	2500	---	---	---	---	---
		S	600	750	1000	1850	2950	4000	12500	20000	---	---
08	1938-D	R	*40*	50	*150*	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1914 4 OVER 3 OVERDATE VARIETIES >>

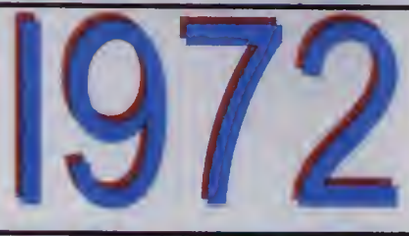
#	DATE/MT		GD04	VG08	FN12	VF20	XF40	AU50	MS60	MS63	MS64	MS65
01	DIE #01	R	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---	$ ---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
02	DIE #02	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
		S	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
03	DIE #03	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
04	DIE #04	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
05	DIE #05	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
06	DIE #06	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
07	DIE #07	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
08	DIE #08	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
09	DIE #09	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
10	DIE #10	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
11	DIE #11	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
12	DIE #12	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
13	DIE #13	R	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

SEPARATION/DISTORTION LEVELS FOR DOUBLED DIES

APPLIED TO THE THINNEST LETTER OR DESIGN ELEMENT
DISTORTION APPLIES TO CLASS VI DOUBLED DIES
CLARITY TO CLASS III OVERDATES
SEPARATION AND CLARITY TO ALL OTHER CLASSES

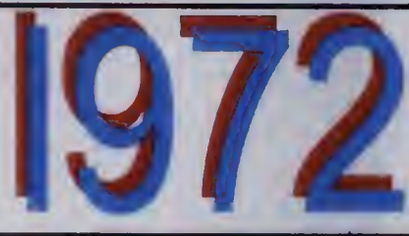
LEVEL 1
MINOR
EX-1942 1-R-I 25C-"AMERICA"
LESS THAN 10%
INSIGNIFICANT
SEPARATION/DISTORTION

LEVEL 2
MODERATE
EX-1953-D 1-R-I 25C-"AMERICA"
11% TO 25%
NOTICEABLE
SEPARATION/DISTORTION



LEVEL 3
SIGNIFICANT
EX-1868 1-O-IV 3C-"AMERICA"
26% TO 50%
EASILY SEEN
SEPARATION/DISTORTION

LEVEL 4
STRONG
EX-1960 PR 5-O-I 10C-DATE
51% TO 75%
OBVIOUS
SEPARATION/DISTORTION



LEVEL 5
MAJOR
EX-1943-S 1-O-I 25C-MOTTO
76%-99%
NEAR TOTAL
SEPARATION

LEVEL 6
DRAMATIC
EX-1972 1-O-I 1C-MOTTO & DATE
100%+
TOTAL
SEPARATION

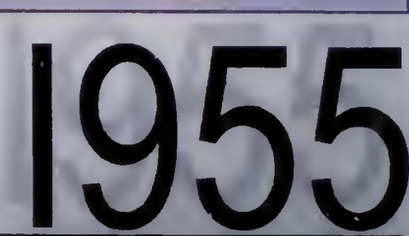
LEVEL 7
EXTREME
EX-1916 1-O-V 5C-DATE
100%+
LETTERS OR NUMBERS
OVERLAP

WHEN DETERMINING THE SPREAD AND "EYE APPEAL" OF DOUBLED DIES, SOME CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE THICKNESS & OVERALL DESIGN OF THE DATE AND LETTERING. A COIN WITH THICKER LETTERING (EX-A WASHINGTON QUARTER OR ROOSEVELT DIME) WILL SHOW MUCH LESS *APPARENT* DOUBLING THAN A COIN WITH THINNER LETTERING (EX-A LINCOLN CENT) WITH THE SAME DEGREE OF SPREAD. *DIE STATE IS ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR & SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED IN ANY DESCRIPTION OF A DOUBLED DIE ALONG WITH OTHER CRITICAL INFORMATION SUCH AS GRADE, ETC.*

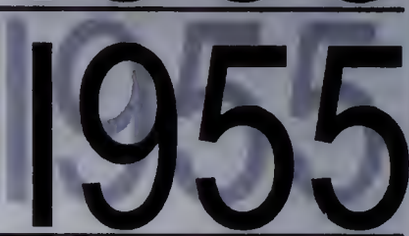
RELATIVE CLARITY OF THE HUBBINGS

IMPORTANT TO THE "EYE APPEAL" OF DOUBLED DIES-
IT INDICATES THE CLARITY OR
STRENGTH OF THE FIRST HUBBING
AND THE CONTRAST BETWEEN HUBBINGS

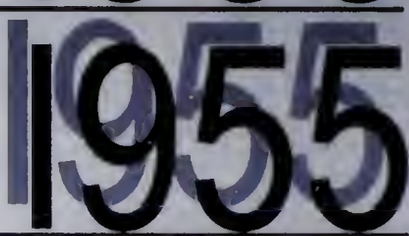
WEAK
EX-1942 I-2-O-IV 1C
1ST HUBBING WEAK
CLARITY BETWEEN HUBBINGS
IS POOR



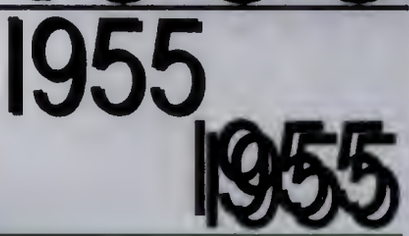
CLEAR
EX-1942 5-R-I 25C
1ST HUBBING CLEAR
CLARITY BETWEEN HUBBINGS
IS GOOD



DISTINCT
EX-1939 1-R-IV 5C
1ST HUBBING DISTINCT
CLARITY BETWEEN HUBBINGS
IS EXCELLENT



EQUAL
EX-1948 1-R-I 10C; 1955 1-O-I 1C
HUBBINGS EQUAL
CLARITY MAY BE POOR
TO EXCELLENT
DEPENDING ON THE SPREAD

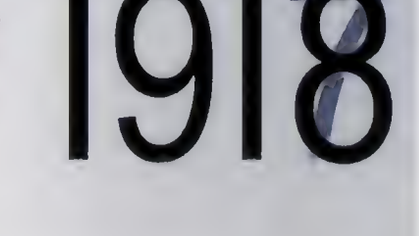


CLASS III OVERDATES-
CLARITY OF THE UNDERDIGIT(S)

WEAK
EX-1942-D 2/1 10C
UNDERDIGIT(S) WEAK
AND/OR
INCOMPLETE

CLEAR
EX-1918-D 8/7 5C
UNDERDIGIT(S)
CLEAR

DISTINCT
EX-1942 2/1 10C
UNDERDIGIT(S)
DISTINCT



BUFFALO NICKELS-FIRST POINTS OF WEAR-REVERSE

AREAS IN LIGHT GRAY ARE THE HIGHEST PARTS OF THE DESIGN AND ARE THOSE PLACES TO SHOW WEAR FIRST.

HAIR ON HEAD

HORN

HIGH POINTS OF SHOULDER

HIGH POINTS OF HIP

BRUSH OF TAIL

THE SUBJECT OF THE COIN IN HIS ELEMENT

A PHOTO OF A BISON IN YELLOWSTONE PARK
TAKEN BY RALPH JIMENEZ IN 1993

THE 1917 "NO NECK" VARIETY BUFFALO NICKEL